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30p

Reforms aim for big cut in jail numbers

Prison sentences for serious offences only

By Quentin Cowdry and Robin Oakley

A shake-up of sentencing policy to make sure hardened criminals spend longer in jail, while keeping petty offenders out of prison, was announced yesterday by the Home Secretary.

Judges and magistrates will be given statutory guidelines to encourage them to restrict custody to the most serious criminals — such as murderers, sex offenders and drug traffickers.

The strategy also involves the creation of demanding new non-custodial sanctions aimed at answering criticism from the courts and public that alternatives to custody are too soft. Those would include curfew orders, probation, rigorous community service, day centre attendance, electronic tagging, fines and compensation orders.

Parole rules will be changed so that anyone sent to jail will

spend at least half of their sentence in custody — rather than a third as at present — and when released, they will be supervised by probation staff.

Other proposals include heavier fines for the rich, new youth courts to deal with defendants under 18 and a crackdown on those who wilfully refused to control delin-

Details, reaction 6
Parliament 12
Lord Windlesham 14
Leading article 15

quent children. Parents will be forced to attend court and magistrates would take their means into account when imposing fines. The maximum sentences for theft and non-domestic burglary will be reduced.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, described the proposals as "the most fundamental and far-reaching changes for at least half a century in the way we punish offenders". They were aimed at cutting crime and based on the principle of "just deserts".

He also announced a "victims' charter" spelling out the rights of those who suffer from crime, which will be published later this month.

The broad thrust of the strategy, contained in a Home Office White Paper, received a remarkable measure of support from MPs, legal experts and penal reform groups, although there were fears that courts would not respond as expected and that the jail population would increase.

Acknowledging that prisons can act as "academies of crime" for early offenders and emphasizing the Government's belief that custody should be reserved for the most serious offences, Mr Waddington said: "We can only justify spending well over £1,000 a month in housing, feeding and clothing a criminal; we can only justify

depriving an offender of the opportunity to maintain his family, compensate his victim or make reparation to society when the offence is so grave that there is no realistic alternative to imprisonment."

Serious crimes would attract severe punishment and that "the right punishment for violent crime is a long prison sentence"; but many less serious offenders could be punished in the community where they could repay their victim and do "tough and demanding work" for the community.

For all but the most serious offences, courts would have to say why they were imposing custodial sentences; but when prison was required, it was important that the sentence served should relate more closely to that passed.

Mr Waddington rejected calls for a sentencing council to end discrepancies in sentencing between different courts, between men and women and between black, Asian and other citizens.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader and home affairs spokesman, welcomed the principles behind the new White Paper, supporting the reduction of fines to ability to pay and the forced disclosure of reasons for giving custodial sentences.

But he said that if parole was given only when half a sentence had been served, the first effect of the White Paper would be to increase the prison population.

Mr Lord Whitelaw, the former Home Secretary, said in the Lords that the conditions and overcrowding in Britain's prisons endangered society.

"The prison population has risen until it has reached a stage where it is not only dangerous but wrong in our society."

"Any nation which neglects the state of its prisons, and the state of prisoners in our prisons, is in the end not the society it should be."

There were also reports of the reforms receiving strong backing from his colleagues.

Officials had predicted confidently that the meeting would end yesterday, but it

was reported in mid-evening that it was to be extended.

Mr Vladimir Brovlikov, the Soviet Ambassador to Poland, who is also a member of the Central Committee, on Monday night led the conservative attack by criticizing Mr Gorbachov for having tried to extend his personal power — an oblique reference to his proposal to make the post of State President more powerful — and blamed the policy of perestroika for causing the present economic disruption.

The envoy said the main mistake had been to try to introduce democracy without first enforcing law and order.

Subsequent speakers echoed his views, describing the Soviet Union as verging on

anarchy and chaos. However, Mr Gorbachov's vision of a nation governed by "humane democratic socialism", in which the party would take part in dialogue with other groups and compete with

Resignation call 8
Calculated gamble 14

them for power, received strong support from several senior leadership members.

Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, whose enthusiasm for political reform has sometimes seemed lukewarm, was quoted by Tass as saying that a multi-party system was now a "fait accompli" in the Soviet Union. "Communists should learn the difficult sci-

ence of how to work and live together with other social and political entities," he said.

His views were supported by the new head of the party organization in Moldavia, which faces opposition from a strong nationalist movement seeking unification with Romania. He called for a new treaty to define relations between them and Moscow to make the country a "union of sovereign states".

The new party leader in Azerbaijan, which has been in a state of virtual war with the neighbouring republic of Armenia for the past two months, said part of the trouble stemmed from republics looking to Moscow for solutions to their problems.

Gorbachov given rough ride on reforms

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

President Gorbachov's proposed reforms of the Soviet Communist Party — including his acceptance of an eventual multi-party system — were reported yesterday to have encountered strong opposition at the Central Committee meeting, which was extended unexpectedly into a third day.

There were conflicting reports about the way his proposals were received, but one unconfirmed version said that fierce condemnation came among others from the leading conservative, Mr Yegor Ligachov, whose hard-hitting speech was said to have been punctuated by applause.

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New wind and storm alert today

By Paul Wilkinson

The Prince of Wales called last night for a boycott of tropical hardwood products in a passionate and outspoken plea to save the world's rainforests.

The hardwoods, which include mahogany, teak and ebony, should be avoided altogether by consumers, "rather than risk contributing to their unnecessary demise", the Prince said.

He called for a new global rainforest treaty, saying that international organizations charged with halting deforestation — the International Tropical Timber Organization and the UN-backed Tropical Forest Action Plan, which was promised £100 million of extra British aid by Mrs Margaret Thatcher last November — were failing in their task.

"Deforestation has actually increased massively during the time that these two institutions have been at work," he

said in a speech at Kew Gardens, south-west London. They concerned themselves only with timber production, and did not take account of the interests of forest peoples.

He suggested that the West

would have to relieve Third

World debt before efforts at

saving the rainforests could be

successful. "For hundreds of

years, the industrialized na-

tions of the world have ex-

ploited, some would say

plundered, the tropical for-

ests for their natural wealth," he

said. "The time has come to

put something back."

Ours was the last generation

that could save the tropical

rainforests, the Prince said.

Professor Ghillean Prance,

director of the Royal Botanic

Gardens, said: "The Prince

has said things that a politi-

cian who needs to seek

election might not dare to do.

I hope the world will listen."

Floods and high winds are expected to strike Britain today as a depression moves in from the Atlantic.

Scotland and Northern Ire-

land should get some respite,

at least until the evening, from

the foul weather, but coastal

regions in southern England

can expect a battering.

The London Weather Cen-

tre said: "The main problem

will be the rain coming after so

long a dry spell." The last

bit of the emergency situation as soon as possible and indicating that it was willing to end race classification, the foundation of apartheid.

Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, told journalists: "I think it must be obvious that this Government would wish to withdraw the last bit of the emergency situation as soon as possible."

He said that the ANC, in its response to Mr de Klerk, could help make this possible.

Mr Gerrit Viljoen, the Min-

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the 1950 Population Registration Act, which classifies

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NEWS ROUNDUP

USAF stop flights after second crash

Flights by US fighter aircraft in Britain were grounded for the day while safety procedures were reviewed yesterday after two jets crashed within 24 hours; although the USAF insisted that the two accidents were just an unfortunate coincidence (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The grounding order came after the pilot of an A10 "Thunderbolt" from RAF Alconbury, Cambridgeshire, died when his plane went down in the Black Mountains near Capel-y-ffin in Powys. Another US airman was killed on Monday when his F111 bomber crashed into the Wash of Lincolnshire, and a second crew member is missing.

The USAF said: "We have decided to suspend operations in the UK so we can review safety procedures and operations. There is no suggestion of a fault in the planes because they are very different aircraft. These crashes were unrelated. The only things they have in common are that they both happened in the UK within a short space of time."

Normal flying operations would be resumed today.

Call for court access

Mr Allan Green, Director of Public Prosecutions, yesterday made out his strongest case yet for lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service to be given the right to take crown court cases (Frances Gibbs writes). He said that if they were not, and solicitors in private practice were, it would have a "deleterious effect" on recruitment to the service. Under the Courts and Legal Services Bill now in the Lords, the Lord Chancellor's new advisory committee, with the senior judges and the professions, will agree rules on wider rights of audience for solicitors.

999 crews 'returning'

Leaders of the ambulance crews denied last night that the dispute was beginning to crumble in spite of a claim by Mr Alan Parker, Chief Ambulance Officer of Leicestershire, that staff in his area were returning to work in steady numbers (Tim Jones writes). There was also a return to work by 11 crew members at Wilford, Nottinghamshire. A spokeswoman for Nufpe said: "In spite of these isolated reports, the reality is that the dispute is hardening."

Award for comedian

The Variety Club of Great Britain, the showbusiness charity, named Lenny Henry, the comedian who fronted the Comic Relief fund-raising campaign last year, as its Personality of the Year yesterday. Rowan Atkinson was named BBC TV personality. Sir John Gielgud, aged 85, received a special award for his services to entertainment over 60 years. The cast of *Coronation Street* was given the ITV personality award. The awards were presented in the London Hilton.

Benefit appeal fails

An important challenge to government powers to claw back benefits wrongly paid to claimants failed yesterday in the Court of Appeal. It rejected an appeal by Mr Alan Brimell, of Ardwick, Manchester, against a High Court decision allowing the Department of Social Security to recover overpayments of unemployment benefit made 16 years ago. The court supported a High Court ruling that under the 1986 Social Security Act the department could make the clawbacks.

Clarke in talks call

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, yesterday called for talks with health professionals in an attempt to allay fears for clinical standards in a reformed health service (Nick Nuttall writes). The Department of Health said the move, in the form of a letter to the presidents of the medical royal colleges, should not be seen as a government U-turn on the health reform Bill. It does not include the introduction of self-governing hospitals or GP budgets.

Rushdie tells of ferocious attacks

By Jenny Knight

Salman Rushdie referred to the "bewildering ferocity" of attacks on *The Satanic Verses* in a lecture delivered last night by Harold Pinter, his friend and fellow writer, amid stringent security precautions at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London.

Mr Rushdie wrote of his 12 months spent in hiding because of death threats from those who consider the book to be blasphemous.

He said: "It has always been a shock to me to meet people for whom books simply do not matter. In the last 12 months I have been obliged to accept that for many millions of human beings, these books are clearly without value."

"We have been witnessing an attack upon a particular work of fiction that is also an attack upon the very ideas of the novel form, an attack of such bewildering ferocity that it has become necessary to restate what is most precious about the art of literature."

The 40-minute talk was heard by an audience of 200

and filmed by the BBC. In contrast to the normally relaxed security at the institute, all bags were searched and visitors subjected to a check with metal detectors.

The Herbert Read memorial lecture, in which Mr Rushdie discussed the state of the modern novel, was entitled "Is Nothing Sacred?"

Until recently, he would have replied no. "Now, however, I find my entire world picture under fire. Do I perhaps find something sacred after all? Am I prepared to set aside as holy the idea of the absolute freedom of the imagination and alongside it my own notions of The World, The Text and The Good?"

In an interview given a year ago but broadcast for the first time last night, the author said that his Muslim critics had mistaken *The Satanic Verses* for fact.

He conceded, however, on the BBC radio arts programme *Kaleidoscope* it might have caused offence because it charted new territory.

Attitudes to television

Viewers say BBC biased towards Tories

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Viewers think BBC Television is more biased towards the Conservative Party than at any time in the past 20 years, according to an authoritative annual survey of public attitudes published yesterday.

More than one in four - 27 per cent - believe BBC1 favours the Conservatives, compared with 9 per cent who think it is biased towards the Labour Party.

Similarly, BBC2 is regarded as favouring the Tories by 16 per cent of viewers, while only 4 per cent believe it helps Labour. By contrast, ITV has held its reputation as being politically unbiased, while Channel 4 is seen as being marginally helpful towards Labour.

Viewer perceptions of political bias were disclosed in *Attitudes to Television*, published by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The survey shows viewers believe BBC television is more than twice as biased towards the Tories since Mrs Margaret Thatcher came to power. This is in spite of persistent attacks in recent

years from Conservative politicians who have accused it of anti-government bias.

Although the structure of questioning for the survey last year was modified slightly to reduce a rising level of "don't know" responses concerning political bias, this does not appear to be responsible for the marked increase in perceived BBC bias as ITV and Channel 4 figures are almost identical to the previous year.

"The trend seen in previous years towards detecting a pro-Conservative bias on both BBC channels has not changed," the survey says.

Labour was keen yesterday not to become embroiled in the issue. A senior party source said: "The BBC suffers from being regarded as the establishment channel and the establishment in Britain, after

10 years of Thatcherism, is the Conservative Party."

"Of course, the irony is that it is the BBC whom the more unpolitical elements within the Conservative Party, like Mr Norman Tebbit, consistently attack as being more biased against them than ITV."

The BBC said last night: "We are concerned about perceptions of bias. But we understand there have been modifications in the way questions were structured in connection with this report. We need to look at this - and the substance of the report - before we respond in detail."

The IBA survey of 1,170 adults also shows that viewers were offended less often by television output last year. Although more are aware of sex, violence and bad language on screen "the frequency of

encountering offensive material has tended to decrease".

All four terrestrial channels - BBC1, BBC2, ITV and Channel 4 - offended considerably fewer people last year.

Bad language was cited more often by those who took offence at programmes. The apparent improvement in standards coincides with the establishment of the Broadcasting Standards Council, chaired by Lord Rees-Mogg.

The BBC has edged closer to the commercial frontiers laid down in its charter with its latest sponsorship agreement. Lloyds Bank is to support the Young Musician of the Year contest, run by the BBC for 14 years, to the tune of £1.3 million in the next five years (Simon Tait writes).

Mr Alan Yentob, controller of BBC2, said yesterday the

sponsorship has meant a series of master classes with five top soloists, starting on February 19, are to be included in the package for this year's Young Musician of the Year contest.

Finalists will be accompanied by the National Youth Orchestra, also sponsored by Lloyds until recently.

BBC would give Lloyds a high profile, with visual and verbal credits during broadcasts. Lloyds would be allowed to feature the sponsorship in its advertising campaigns.

Mr Yentob said the agreement was within the terms of the BBC charter, which allows sponsorship of events which are televised but not of television programmes.

Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, said he hoped the arrangement could continue beyond five years.

He made clear that the sponsorship was in line with the bank's theme of seeking younger clients. "People don't change their bank very much, and the one type the banks all most like to get is the talented young person," he said.

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Death of 79 dogs in airtight lorry

Breeders fined £11,000 for suffocation of beagle pups

By Michael Hornsall

A lorry-load of beagle puppies destined for a life of laboratory experiments abroad died from suffocation aboard a North Sea ferry because it was feared their plight would be spotted by animal liberation sympathizers.

The 79 dogs died from lack of oxygen after the breeders responsible for their well-being decided to lock the rear door of the lorry in which they were travelling so no one would see them.

That decision made their container airtight, since the ventilation system was off. It worked only when the engine was running.

The puppies were part of a consignment of 100 beagles being taken to Sweden last September, and the story of how they died was outlined to magistrates in Harwich, Essex, yesterday, when some of the heaviest fines ever imposed for animal cruelty were handed out.

Paul MacKenzie, aged 35, a co-director of the specialist breeding company who accompanied the dogs on the ferry was fined £5,500 after admitting two charges of causing unnecessary suffering.

The company, Alpha Sirius Ltd, of Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, which traded as Perrycroft Farm Kennels, was fined £11,000 after admitting two identical charges.

MacKenzie denied two further charges that he exposed the dogs to adverse conditions and that they had no fresh air; the company denied loading the beagles in a

vehicle inadequate for transporting them. No evidence was offered on those counts. A further charge against the Middlesex transport company, Monocraft Freight, was adjourned until April 10.

Mr Ian Corbett, for the prosecution, said the 100 beagles were packed in individual cages on a lorry at Malvern on the night of September 5, after a vet had declared them fit and healthy.

They were then driven overnight by the Monocraft driver, Mr Harry Stevens, and MacKenzie to Harwich where they were taken on board the Gothenburg ferry and waited but not fed.

Mr Corbett said: "It is not the only act of cruelty, but it was perhaps the fatal act that at that point the back door of the lorry was closed at 11am on September 6."

The consignment of dogs, worth about £30,000, had been destined for the Swedish pharmaceuticals company Astral, which bought them to test drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Their documentation described them as "breeding dogs" and the ferry owners, DFDS, were unaware of the real reason for their transportation. The breeding company had decided the cargo was too sensitive for the dogs to be given a stopover kennel in Harwich.

During the journey, Mrs Karin Nordlander, a Swedish dog breeder, heard the dogs screaming and reported the matter to the ship's informer. But Mr Corbett told the court that "too much was anticipated, too much as

sundered" about the well-being of the animals.

In mitigation, MacKenzie of Ombersley Road, Worcester, was said to have been appalled by the discovery he made on board. It was also said that he would lose his directorship of Alpha Sirius and have nothing further to do with the care of animals now that his career had been wrecked.

In Sweden, four dogs underwent post-mortem examinations, while the rest were cremated.

Mr Rodney Johnston, a Ministry of Agriculture expert who examined the carcasses, found that death was due to suffocation and hypothermia.

He told investigators that the lorry was "very nearly airtight" and completely unsuitable for transporting animals.

Some of them, whose cages were on the upper of two tiers, were in a state of rigor mortis before it was realized any of them had died.

MacKenzie was interviewed by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and by Ministry of Agriculture officials and accepted that he was responsible for the welfare of the dogs during the journey.

MacKenzie, who did not give evidence and who declined to comment afterwards, told investigators in Sweden that he did not believe the ventilation to be his responsibility.

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After the case - brought by the Ministry for Agriculture after attracting the personal attention of Mr John Gummer, the minister - Mr Gummer said he was appalled by the cruelty.

"The judgement and fines speak for themselves," he said. "I am determined that whenever the law is broken we shall seek to bring the culprits to book so that people know that cruelty to animals will not be tolerated in a civilized society."

Mr Frank Milner, a chief superintendent in the Special Investigations and Operations department of the RSPCA, said: "They deserved what they got. It was a terrible case of animal cruelty. It should have been obvious to anyone that there were going to be problems in that lorry. One needs to take a look around what happened."

Helping hand for first Wrens at sea

DENZIL MACELEAN



Crystal Simmonds, aged 25, a radio operator, one of the first Wrens to volunteer for sea duty, receiving a helping hand from crew during a visit to HMS Gloucester yesterday.

Women may train as Harrier jet pilots

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

Ministers are studying the possibility of allowing women to train as Harrier jump jet fighter pilots, it emerged yesterday, as the first Wrens to volunteer for sea-duty presented themselves on a Royal Navy destroyer.

Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, who announced the end of the Navy ban on women at sea in the Commons on Monday, said he saw no reason why there should not be female Harrier and helicopter pilots. "We're looking at that," he said on board HMS Gloucester, a Type 42 destroyer, moored in the Thames.

Mr Hamilton said a combat mission in a Harrier was not seen in the same light as hand-to-hand fighting on ground. The only doubts about women becoming fighter pilots were financial. It was expensive to train a jet pilot, especially if she had to leave the service to have a baby, he said.

The Wrens would be expected to carry out the same tasks as men, however physically demanding. "There is no question of treating them more softly than the men."

Mr Hamilton said the way was open for a woman to command a warship after 12 years and even to win the top Navy job, First Sea Lady and Chief of Naval Staff.

Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, First Sea Lord, said yesterday it took him 43 years to get to the top but he expected a woman to make it in a shorter time. Sir Julian said he and his fellow admirals had supported fully the decision by ministers to send women to sea.

Commander Jerry Parker, captain of HMS Gloucester, who presented the first nine Wrens who have volunteered to go to sea, said: "Personally, I would be delighted to have women on board. It'll change the atmosphere but I'm sure we can make it work."

It was emphasized that fraternization on board ship would be banned and the women would have separate sleeping quarters. Wives of sailors and husbands of Wrens would be able to use a free telephone line for reassuring chats.

Commandant Antrea Larken, director of the Women's Royal Naval Service, said the first volunteers would go to sea this year.

Second Officer Chella Franklin, aged 25, a weapons engineer who spent five days at sea on HMS Norfolk, a Type 23 frigate, said her boyfriend, a submariner at Faslane on the Clyde, was pleased she was the first Wren to sail on a warship but "not 100 per cent happy" about her being at sea with 160 men.

She said: "We were all so busy, I don't think the men noticed me. They called me 'air' most of the time."

Navy wives expressed some anxiety. Mrs Melanie Kelly, of Cheadle, Cheshire, whose husband is a chief petty officer on HMS Nottingham, a Type 42 destroyer, said: "It's like digging a carrot in front of a donkey. They might as well turn the ships into cruisers."

However, First Officer Jane Rissell, aged 36, whose husband is a Lieutenant commander based at HMS Dryad, Portsmouth, said: "I think it might make a few married girls think twice about joining once they have to sign a liability committing them to go to sea if required."

REPORTER'S PORTFOLIO
There were no winners of yesterday's Portfolio Platinum competition, so today's prize accumulates to £4,000.

Kinnock goes on attack over 'raw deal' report

By Douglas Brown and Philip Webster

The Prime Minister yesterday defended the Government's record on education in the wake of a report by Government school inspectors which said a third of pupils were "getting a raw deal".

There were angry exchanges in the Commons when Mr Kinnock, the Labour leader, accused Mrs Thatcher of being "satisfied with the mistreatment of other people's children in education".

Speaking above morning up, the Prime Minister replied: "The education system is in far better shape now than it ever has been before."

Shortly before the Commons clash Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, had issued a strongly defensive statement asserting that the inspectors had been generally satisfied with standards.

The furor followed the publication on Monday of the annual report of the Senior Chief Inspector of Schools, Mr Eric Bolton.

He said that while 70 to 80 per cent of lessons were satisfactory or better, 30 per cent of pupils, especially the least able, were "getting a raw deal" from the state education system.

Mr Kinnock seized on the report during Question Time, telling Mrs Thatcher angrily: "You speak of a good report. It just shows how satisfied you are with the mistreatment of other people's children in education."

Recalling that the report said a third of children were getting a "raw deal", he demanded: "Don't you consider that to be a damning indictment of your Gov-

ernment?" Mrs Thatcher, who had armed herself for an expected Commons assault by reading the report, disputed Mr Kinnock's interpretation. Whilst there were a number of things to be remedied, 70 to 80 per cent of work in schools was satisfactory.

In a statement issued later

he said the real message of the report was that the Government's education reforms were "right for the 1990s".

In schools, reaction to the report was mixed with teachers taking the view that the criticisms were unduly harsh.

At the Culloden Primary School in Bertham Green, east London, Miss Anna Ipsjelar, a Dutch teacher recruited last October, said she felt the criticisms were unfair.

Miss Ipsjelar, aged 31, who spent four years as a music adviser in Holland, said: "It seems very unfair that the inspectors should take this negative tone. They should be more positive."

"From what I have seen of London schools since I have been here the conclusions are not fair and they are not true."

• King Edward's School, Birmingham, yesterday claimed to have broken a public school record after almost half of its sixth form won places at Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Forty-nine boys out of an upper-sixth year of 105 at the 433 year old independent school have been made provisionally offers of places on Oxbridge degree courses - 32 at Oxford and 17 at Cam-

bridge.

The Chief Master, Mr Martin Rogers, who has been head of the school for eight years, said yesterday: "We are all delighted with the record. It is a superb achievement."

As Tory MPs barracked him, Mr Kinnock gestured at them and said: "They do not even send their children to maintained schools."

Which of his reforms, he demanded, would "stop the children of this generation being failed and the children of this generation's future being betrayed". Mrs Thatcher retorted that the inspectors had faced their task more calmly than Mr Kinnock.

Mr MacGregor, who was clearly stung by the tone of

Family savings boom forecast

By Robin Young

People will spend less and save more over the next five years as high interest rates and the credit squeeze continue to bite, according to the market analyst Mintel.

The organization expects people to take holidays at home and to cut down on buying clothes, smoking, drinking and eating out, while investing more in pensions and insurance.

Mintel forecasts a 21 per cent increase in savings in the years to 1994, but even so, the level will still be lower in real terms than it was five years ago. At the moment, people save about 4 per cent of their disposable income, compared with 10.2 per cent in 1984, but even a savings boom is not expected to take that ratio above 4.7 per cent.

Spending on sickness and accident insurance is expected to rise by 14 per cent to £1.03 billion at 1989 prices, while spending on life insurance and pensions is expected to climb 12 per cent to £13.66 billion.

The fastest growing area will be home and contents insurance as premiums rise to keep pace with more broken and weather damage.

Consumer spending will fall by 1.1 per cent this year, compared with a rise of nearly 3 per cent last year, and of about 7 per cent in 1988.

Mintel says "the boom years are over" because economic performance has deteriorated and credit will not be widely available. It expects the economic squeeze and high interest rates to bite hard this year, with people more likely to take holidays at home, and to cut spending on clothing, tobacco, drinks and eating out.

Spending on food eaten at

home had been falling with more people eating out and a third of adults having at least one takeaway meal a week.

The forecasters expect a limited recovery in 1991, though, which they predict will be a "buoyant year" with house prices recovering and a 2.3 per cent increase in consumer spending.

By 1994, the researchers estimate, total outgoings will reach £396 billion (at 1989

prices), a real increase of 7 per cent over five years, compared with the real increase of 20 per cent from 1984 to 1989.

For discretionary expenditure (excluding tax, national insurance payments and heating and housing costs) the organization predicts an increase of only 5 per cent by 1994, with a 1.1 per cent downturn this year.

The market expected to do well over the next five years is clothing, which will be handicapped by a fall in the number of 15 to 29-year-olds in the population, although manufacturers of women's

United States of Europe, provided a recovery in January, rising by 1 per cent in the month - the biggest monthly rise since last March - although over a 12-month period, the rise in the cost of new homes remains below that for the market as a whole at just 2.4 per cent.

In contrast the prices paid by first-time buyers in January were more depressed than the total market, falling by 0.9 per cent in the month.

The Halifax said prices were expected to remain weak this year, but that would lead to increased activity in the market and to a firm recovery in 1991.

By David Sapsted

Howard Marks, an Oxford graduate, convicted drugs smuggler and one-time MI6 agent, yesterday denied from a Miami prison cell that he had headed the largest operation smuggling marijuana into the United States.

He admitted that, in the past, he had used pop groups to smuggle hashish from Colombia, Pakistan, Thailand and the Lebanon into the US but said that it was nonsense to suggest, as America's Drug Enforcement Agency has, that he had become the "Marco Polo of international drugs trafficking".

Marks, aged 44, was arrested in Spain in 1988 after one of the world's largest drug investigations involving enforcement agencies in 14 countries, including Britain. His brother-in-law, Patrick Lane, has been found guilty of laundering drugs money and Marks faces charges in the US which, if proven, could result in a 30-year prison sentence.

In an interview with the BBC Wales programme *Week In Week Out*, shown last

night, he denied claims that he had \$30 million (about £17.3 million) in secret bank accounts but said he had no regrets about smuggling marijuana that resulted, eventually, in a two-year prison sentence in Britain.

"If I had my life all over again, then I think I would probably still have smuggled marijuana. Marijuana hasn't killed anyone in 8,000 years of its use and to describe me as peddling death is both extremely insulting and incorrect," he said.

While on bail in Britain on a drugs-smuggling charge in 1974, Marks disappeared for six years. He said he had roamed the world on false passports before being re-arrested in 1980 on a second smuggling charge, only to be found not guilty after his links with the intelligence services were admitted in court.

Marks admitted knowing Lord Moynihan - half-brother of Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister of Sport - who is in hiding in the United States and who is wanted in Britain on a long-standing

marble nude sculpture which confounded Dr Charles Avery, a Christie's expert, when it fetched £715,000 last September against an estimate of £3,000 to £4,000, goes on show in London today with a probable price tag of £5 million.

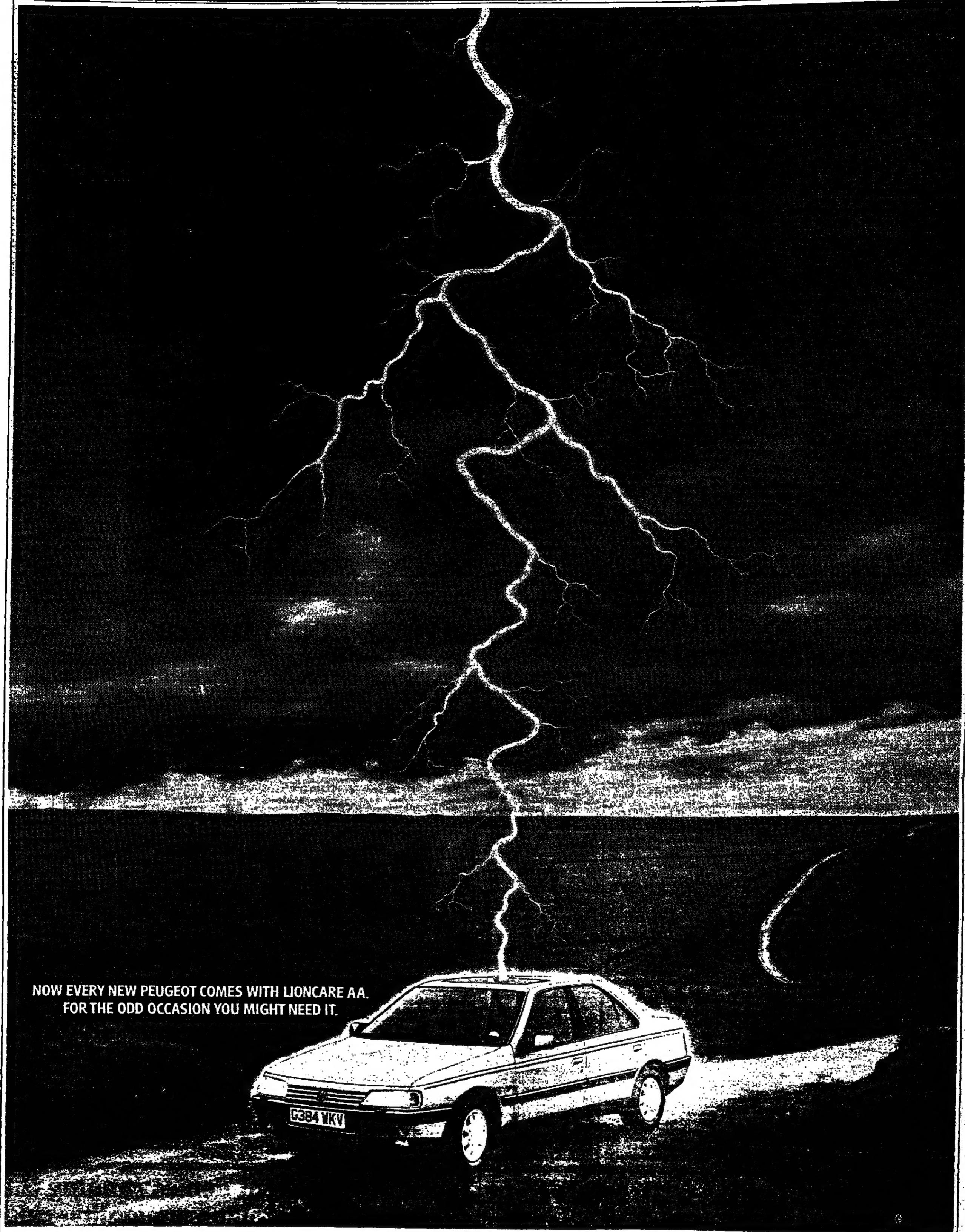
The display, at the Alex Wengraf gallery at 53-60 Jermyn Street follows restoration of the piece, and research by Mrs Pai Wengraf. It was she who spotted the work lying on the grass at the Wrotham Park auction in Kent, catalogued as an "18th-century white marble half-length figure of Venus Marina, her head turned to sinister".

Since taking her gamble, she has proven its authenticity as an important work by the 16th-century mannerist sculptor Giambologna.

"It is a unique piece, and has a full provenance now," Mr Alex Wengraf said yesterday. "It is one of only three outside Italy, and so I leave you to draw your own conclusion about the price."

As to whether Dr Charles Avery, the world expert on Giambologna, has revised his opinion on the work, he said: "We have asked him to come

up and see the work, but it has never been convenient."



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VC1, the lamp manufacturer

announced yesterday at its factory in Safford,

Suffolk.

Farm incomes rise over year but still lag 40% below 1984

By Michael Heseltine, Agriculture Correspondent

Farm incomes showed a modest rise last year, but in real terms are still 40 per cent below what they were six years ago, the Government disclosed yesterday in its annual report on the state of the industry.

The report, released by Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, also disclosed that the number of people employed in farming fell by 14,000, or 2.4 per cent, in 1989, the sharpest drop in the past decade. Most of the decline was caused by the shedding of hired labour.

"In general, these figures show there has been an improvement in income, but it is a very broad spread and the pressures on particular parts of the industry have been very much greater," Mr Gummer said.

"The squeeze on farm incomes has been a significant one and the measures that have been taken by the European Community to get rid of the surplus lakes and mountains have had an effect on farmers, and indeed had to have an effect if they were to achieve their aim."

Sir Simon Gourlay, presi-

dent of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said agriculture's economic state was "still close to its lowest level in the post-war period". He repeated calls for a full devaluation of the green pound, the special exchange rate used in EC agricultural trade.

The over-valued green rate acts as a tax on Britain's food exports to the rest of the EC while subsidizing imports. It also cancels out the increase in EC support prices which British farmers would otherwise get as a result of the fall in the market rate for the pound.

Sir Simon said: "The Government's figures reinforce our campaign for British farmers to be placed on equal trading terms with our EC competitors."

The NFU conceded that a full devaluation of the green pound would push up food prices by about 1 per cent, but says this must be set against the estimated £700 million which the inflated green rate will cost farmers in lost revenue over a full year.

Mr Gummer held out little hope of relief. He said he might have difficulty in persuading other member

states to accept even the one-third devaluation of the green pound proposed by the European Commission as part of this year's farm price negotiations in Brussels.

The Government's report shows that total income from farming amounted to £2,167 million in 1989, an increase of 11 per cent on the previous year. But, after allowing for inflation, the real increase was only 3 per cent, after a 20 per cent real decline in 1988. Interest payments on farmers' debts came to £949 million, 43 per cent of income.

The number of people engaged in agriculture in Britain is now 573,000, 2.2 per cent of the total workforce, compared with about 660,000 at the start of the decade.

Mr Gummer attributed this, in part, to competition for labour from other sectors of industry. "If you go back to 1990, it is interesting to see that there has been little change in the number of farmers since then. What has happened is that mechanization and technological changes have greatly reduced the need for hired labour," he said.

Company cars

Major faces tough fight with industry over higher taxes

By Kevin Evans, Motoring Correspondent

Tax charges on company cars have increased 1,000 per cent in less than 10 years, fuelling an aggressive campaign to prevent further rises in Mr John Major's Budget next month.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer faces a concerted campaign from the motor industry over the heavy burden levied on some company motorists.

A survey published yesterday shows that tax scale charges on a new company car under 1600cc have increased from just £250 in 1981 to £2,450 last year.

Companies fear an explosion of wage claims from disgruntled employees who would find it cheaper to run their own cars than use company fleets.

Pay claims from many of Britain's three million company car drivers would put severe pressure on inflation.

The authoritative Monks Guide to Company Car Policy said that an average employee would expect £4,300 a year to run a car equivalent to a 1600cc fleet model over 20,000 miles annually.

The guide says that high mileage company car users can be penalized much more heavily than those "perk" users who drive their company transport mainly for private motoring. Drivers who travel as many as 10,000 miles annually might be better off running their own car on a mileage allowance.

Mr Tony Vernon-Harcourt, one of the report's authors, said: "The present tax system penalizes the high business mileage user unfairly, but is still generous to the car user with high private and low business mileage."

The Monks survey of almost 200 firms disclosed that 72 per cent of drivers travel 10,000 business miles or more annually, although 13 per cent



Mr Major: His Budget is target of tax campaign.

Footballer's libel win

Viv Anderson, the Manchester United and former England footballer, won substantial libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations published in the *Sunday Mirror* of a fight over a woman with John Fashan, the Wimbledon striker.

Mr Anderson was alleged in the article to have assaulted Mr Fashan in the players' tunnel at Wimbledon Football Club after a match. Mr Thomas Shields, for Mr Anderson, told Mr Justice Michael Davies that the article "gave the clear impression that Mr Anderson had caused a grudge against Mr Fashan for many years". However, there was no grudge.

Mirror Group Newspapers accepted the allegations were "wholly without foundation". It apologized unreservedly and agreed to pay undisclosed damages and all costs.

Halifax trial

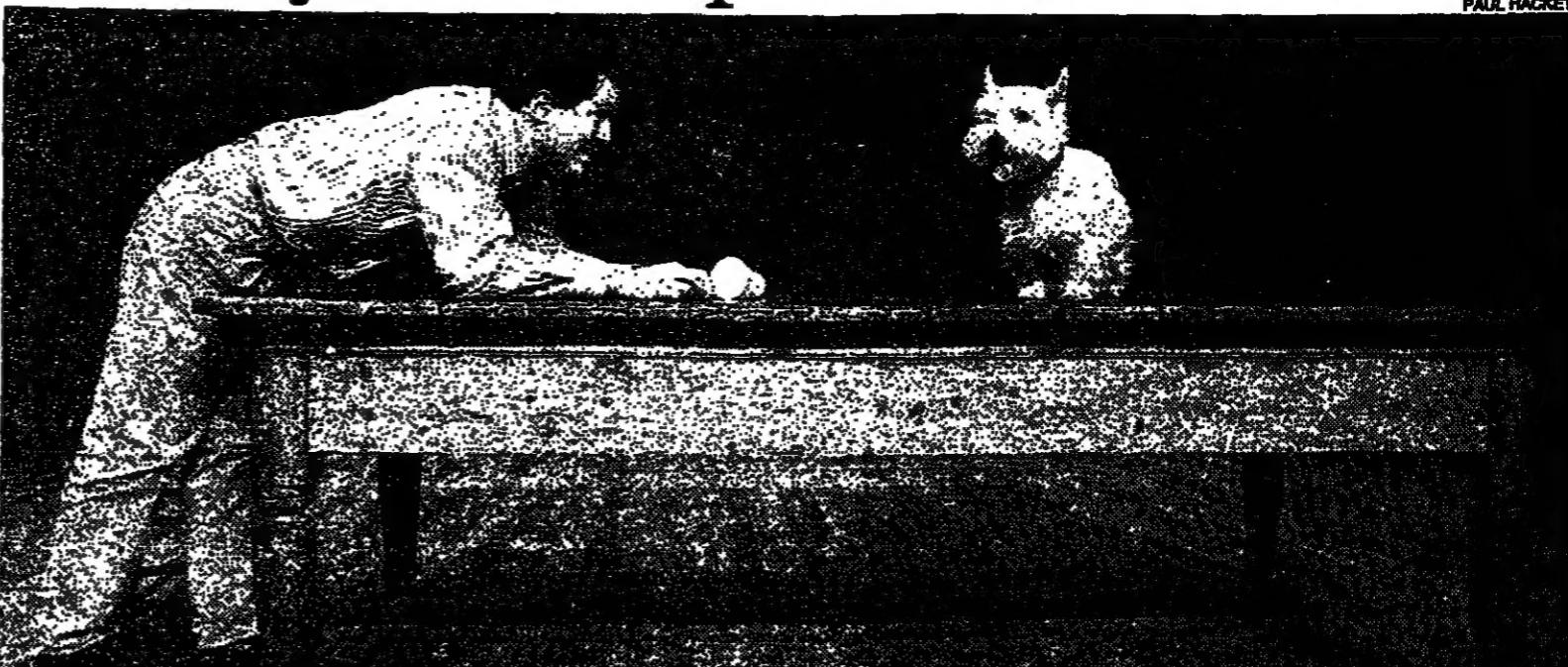
The Halifax Building Society was committed for trial by Calder, Cumbria, magistrates yesterday, accused of illegally holding information under the 1984 Data Protection Act.

Rambler death
The Northumberland police appealed for help in identifying the body of a rambler found in Wark Forest last Friday. The body may have been there for up to a year.

Lamp jobs cut
VCH, the lamp manufacturer, announced 95 redundancies yesterday at its factory at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

A Royal Shakespeare debut for Jodie

PAUL HACKETT



Jodie, a 19-month-old Bichon Frise, being bathed at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, by Mr Robert Jones, assistant director of the musical *Show Boat*. She will make her stage debut this weekend in the company's production, taking the briefest of walk-on parts in the final act.

Ministers to support poisoned land registers

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

Ministers are willing to support the setting up by local authorities of public registers of poisoned land sites. In their response to the report on contaminated land by the Commons environment select committee they will concede the need to build up a nationwide profile of pollution black spots.

Although the Government's official reply will not be disclosed for a couple of months, *The Times* has been told that it will support the all-party

committee's call for local authority registers. They would be open for inspection to the public as part of the Government's policy to extend access to information about the environment.

Mr David Trippier, Minister of State for the Environment, is holding talks with the Association of District Councils to make sure such a register does not cast a blight over an area by focusing attention on the hazards. He is concerned that designating as contaminated old factory sites in, for

example, a former northern industrial centre could discourage economic investment in spite of grants.

• Wild birds were illegally poisoned on Lord Mansfield's Scone estate and the Strathmore estate of Lord Glamis, it was disclosed by Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, minister responsible for the environment at the Scottish Office, in a parliamentary answer yesterday.

He listed 10 properties in Tayside where poisoning incidents occurred in the past three years.

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CRIME, JUSTICE AND THE PUBLIC

Making the punishment fit the crime

Sweeping proposals to reduce the number of non-violent offenders sent to jail and to ensure that prisoners serve a greater part of their sentences in custody were unveiled in a government White Paper yesterday. It promises the creation of a comprehensive sentencing framework for Britain's courts.

The White Paper, seen by ministers and critics as the boldest criminal justice initiative for a generation, proposes the creation of a sentencing "culture"; more offenders would be punished in the community and only murderers, sex offenders and drugs traffickers would be sent to prison.

However, under the "two-track" policy devised by the Home Office, offenders convicted of the most serious offences can expect stiffer punishment and, along with short-sentence criminals, closer supervision after they are released

from jail. Courts will, for example, be empowered to impose unusually long prison terms on persistent violent offenders.

The prize underlying the strategy, the paper suggests, is the creation of a more just and effective sentencing structure. Ministers believe that the huge problem of criminals reoffending is, in part, encouraged by inappropriate custody. About 45 per cent of all people jailed are remanded within two years of gaining their freedom. The rate rises to 50 per cent for some young offenders.

Ministers also hope the moves will cut the jail population, which at more than 47,000, is one of the largest in absolute and proportionate terms in Western Europe. However, the White Paper, whose proposed shake-up of early release rules for inmates would tend to increase the population, makes no predictions.

The proposals also build on the

Government's long-standing commitment to increasing parental responsibility - the focus being on parents of delinquent children.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, hopes to introduce the package in a "flagship" government Bill this autumn or early next spring.

The White Paper rejects mandatory sentencing rules as incompatible with the constitutional principle of judicial independence. It also dismisses the idea of a sentencing council, comprising lay and judicial members, which has the support of the Labour Party, penal reformers and a growing cross-section of legal opinion.

Instead, the paper says Parliament should set sentencing guidelines which would force judges and magistrates to be more wary of imposing custody when dealing with all but the most serious offenders and to relate

punishments directly to the severity of offences.

The White Paper says: "The aim of the Government's proposals is better justice through a more consistent approach to sentencing, so that convicted criminals get their 'just deserts'."

"The legislation will be in general terms. It is not the Government's intention that Parliament should bind the courts with strict legislative guidelines... The courts will properly continue to have the wide discretion they need if they are to deal justly with the great variety of crimes which come before them."

The Government says the first

objective of all sentences should be denunciation and retribution for the crime. Depending on the offence and the offender, the sentence may also aim to achieve reparation, public protection and reform of the offender. Determination, a principle with great "immediate appeal", is a less certain component as, the paper says, much crime is committed on impulse by people who "live from moment to moment".

Sending criminals to prison fails to satisfy these aims in the vast majority of cases. Whatever efforts have been made to improve regimes in Britain's overcrowded jails, the paper says, prison remains a species of "society" where people are isolated from normal routines and duties and where the opportunity to learn from other criminals is pervasive.

It concludes: "The prospects of reforming offenders are usually

much better if they stay in the community, provided the public is properly protected."

The White Paper also envisages radical changes in rules governing the early release of prisoners. Many of those sentenced for over a year would spend longer in prison than they do now, with no convicts being allowed out before they have served half their sentence. All prisoners jailed for a year or more would be subject to compulsory supervision by probation officers and offenders risk incurring longer sentences if they commit new indictable offences before the expiry of the original term.

Pointing out that burglaries and thefts account for well over 70 per cent of recorded crime, and violent crimes represent less than 6 per cent, the Government says the courts should make far greater use of non-custodial sentences.

To encourage courts to do so,

community punishments such as probation and community service would be made tougher, and courts would be empowered to draw up, with the probation service, "cocktails" of orders tailored to suit the needs of individual offenders. Probation would become a sentence rather than an order, enabling courts to combine compulsory supervision of offenders with fines.

Courts would also be given the power to impose curfews on offenders, either as a sentence in its own right or as part of a package of non-custodial punishments.

These might be enforced by electronic monitoring or tagging, depending on the outcome of trials now being conducted at two magistrates' courts to test the viability of the technology.

Crime, Justice, and Protecting the Public (Cmnd 965, HMSO, £6.20).

Toughening up the 'soft option'

Proposals for courts to be empowered to use non-custodial sanctions more flexibly and to devise "cocktails" of tailor-made punishments for offenders are included in the White Paper's section on punishment in the community.

The idea is to toughen community penalties - sentences still seen as soft options by some magistrates and judges - within the overall policy of establishing a more sensitively graduated and applied sentencing regime. There would be a wide range of alternatives, which could be used with considerable flexibility and linked with financial penalties, particularly compensation to the victim.

The main option for adults would be a probation order; a probation order with "strings" such as attendance at a day centre, community service of between 40 and 240 hours and a combined order linking community service and probation. In addition, there would be a new curfew order possibly enforced by electronic monitoring or tagging - which could be used by itself or with other orders.

Sentencers would be able to select the precise form of punishment in the community best suited to each offender, relating the severity of the punishment to the seriousness of the offence," the White Paper says.

However, in establishing the precise punishment courts would be obliged to pay careful consideration to the nature of the offence and the offender's background.

Fines would be used in isolation for the least harmful offenders, while community service, which is generally more restrictive and expensive than other non-custodial sentences, would be used for more serious criminals such as recidivist thieves and burglars.

Under the new "combination order" offenders would perform community work while under the supervision of a probation officer and subject to any extra requirements.

The paper says: "It would enable the courts to introduce an element of reparation but, at the same time, to provide the probation service with an opportunity to work with

PUNISHMENT

offenders, to reduce the likelihood of further offending."

The order is seen as particularly suitable for some persistent property offenders. About 10,000 of those in custody and sentenced for burglary, theft, fraud, forgery and handling stolen goods, have three or more previous convictions.

The Government believes courts would also substantially increase use of fines, a penalty whose use has declined in recent years, if the penalties were strictly means-related.

The principle that different financial penalties can provide the same punishment for offenders of different means, is the foundation of "day fine" systems in West Germany and Sweden. At its simplest, the theory is that the court has details of the offender's daily income, and his punishment is that he should lose a specified number of days' income.

Magistrates, sceptical at the start of experiments with this system in Britain, soon came to take a positive view. Setting fairer fine levels should lead to increased use of fines and less difficulty enforcing them.

The Government proposes to provide a legislative framework for "unit fines" including a requirement for defendants to provide courts with information about their means.

The magistrates' courts which are responsible for enforcing the collection of fines, have been asked to review their methods. In particular, since it regards the attachment of earnings as a valuable method of enforcing fines it is considering legislation to extend it to the attachment of state benefits.

More offenders with substantial means are coming before the courts. In cases where a company ignores pollution controls or safety precautions the courts should have the power to fine according to the offender's means, the paper adds.

The normal maximum fine of £2,000 available to magistrates' courts is too low for people who flout laws that protect the public. In forthcoming legislation the maximum penalty will be £20,000 plus imprisonment.

GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES

The White Paper's main proposals are:

- the creation of a coherent legislative sentencing framework which discourages the use of prison for all but the most serious offences and encourages sentences to match punishment more closely to crime;
- a reduction in the maximum penalties for theft and some burglaries;
- the introduction of means-related "unit" fines;
- that all prisoners serve at least half their sentence in custody, with automatic release at the mid-sentence point for those imprisoned up to four years;
- that all prisoners serving sentences of more than one year are supervised after release;
- the creation of new community punishments;
- wider powers for courts to make parents take more control of delinquent children; and
- juvenile courts to become youth courts, with maximum age limit of offenders raised from 17 to 18.



Arrested: The Government's new White Paper should provide the courts with a more precise framework to punish offenders.

More time spent behind bars

PAROLE

A vastly reduced parole system and the automatic release of offenders imprisoned for less than four years after they have served half their sentences are proposed in the White Paper's section on the early release rules.

Proposing the biggest changes to the rules since parole was introduced in 1968, the White Paper says present arrangements undermine the credibility of sentences and do not contribute enough to curb the problem of reoffending.

At present, many prisoners are released after serving a third of their sentence, while, because of remission, even those released parole are released - subject to days lost through bad behaviour - after serving two-thirds of their terms.

Even worse, the Government says, those gaining remission are released unconditionally. Unlike lifers, there is no compulsory supervision on release and no extra liability for those who reoffend shortly after gaining their freedom.

In addition, the system creates unacceptable anomalies for short-sentence offenders, many of whom may be released on the spot or about the same day in spite of receiving differing prison terms.

The proposals, based on recommendations by Lord Carlisle of Bucklow in a government-commissioned study on parole in 1988, aim to remove the anomalies, which have angered sentences as much as prisoners, and to toughen the effect of sentences.

Most prisoners will spend a greater proportion of their sentence "inside", will be sub-

ject to longer supervision on release and will be at risk of recall to jail and stiff punishment for offences committed immediately after the ending of release licences. All inmates will remain under sentence until the end of the term stipulated by the court on conviction.

The rule introduced in 1983, that parole should be earned in all but exceptional cases to criminals sentenced to more than five years for offences involving violence, arson, sex

or drug trafficking, will be scrapped. Ministers say it is illogical and dangerous that some of the worst criminals should eventually be freed with no obligation to receive supervision.

Criminals imprisoned for four years or less will be released automatically after serving half their terms, but those who misbehave while in jail may be detained a little longer.

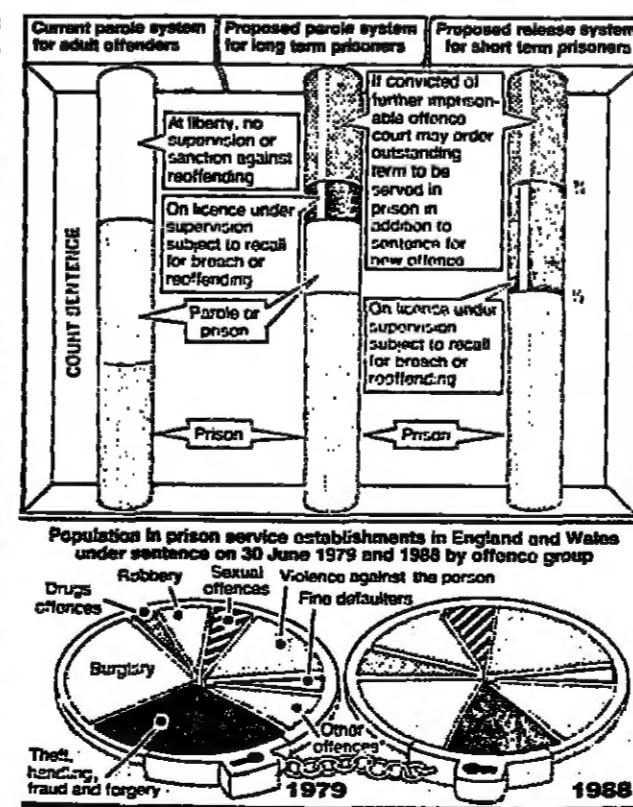
In one of the biggest changes, all prisoners, except adults jailed for under a year, will be subject to mandatory supervision on release by probation officers. Supervision will last until the three-quarters point of the sentence, whether inmates are paroled or freed under the automatic release scheme for short-term offenders.

In addition, a released prisoner convicted of a new indictable offence before the end of his original sentence could be ordered by the court to serve part or all of the unexpired portion of the sentence in addition to any further custodial sentence.

The changes would also entail the winding up of the 120 or so local review committees which comprise the lower tier of the parole decision-making process.

Decisions on inmates serving more than four years would be made by the existing second-tier, the Parole Board, which would handle some 4,500 cases annually.

The White Paper, however, rejects Lord Carlisle's recommendation that the Home Secretary should lose his responsibility for all individual parole decisions.



More time spent inside, and more supervision on release: increasingly prisoners are convicted of violence or sex crimes.

Parental role to the fore

Parental responsibility and discipline are the keynotes of the White Paper's attitude to young offenders.

In particular, the power of courts to impose curfews on young offenders is to be increased so that parents will be obliged by the courts to know where their teenage children go in the evenings.

It argues that young people who are free to come and go as they please at all hours are exposed to greater temptation and are at greater risk of getting into trouble.

The White Paper states explicitly: "Crime prevention begins in the home." To reinforce parental respons-

CHILDREN

ability the Government proposes legislation to force parents to attend court when their children are charged with criminal offences.

It will also make parents liable for fines imposed upon their children and the fines on juveniles will reflect their parents' income.

To make sure that teenagers in local authority care are kept on a tighter rein, councils are to be made responsible in the same way as parents.

The White Paper says: "When effective family control is lacking, children are more likely to grow up with self-discipline and a sense of concern for others. They are more likely to commit crimes." When a child has run out of control of its parents the courts will request the social services to advise and guide the parents.

They estimated that the effect of the parole and remission changes would increase the population in Britain's jails, already severely overcrowded, by some 4,000. Sentencers would have to react with enormous enthusiasm to "punishment in the community" for the policy not to backfire.

The proposed statutory criteria for prison sentences are a useful advance. But they should be reinforced by a sentencing council which would issue detailed guidance designed to scale down the use of prison," Miss Vivien Stern, the association's director, said.

The Criminal Bar Associa-

tion said that the Government must provide adequate resources if the judiciary was to be persuaded to use alternatives to custody.

Mr Nicholas Purnell, QC, its chairman, said that the Government's overall philosophy was to be welcomed.

However, Mr Purnell, who himself sits as a Crown Court recorder, said that there was no way the courts would treat alternatives to custody with seriousness unless they could be satisfied "that these are

genuinely not soft options; that they are a really effective punishment".

Central to the successful working of the plans was some mechanism, such as a sentencing commission, by which judges, recorders and magis-

trates could be given the information about the local alternatives to custody.

Mr Stephen Ridley, secretary of the Law Society's criminal law committee, also broadly endorsed the proposals, although he said there

would need to be "a good deal of judicial education".

However, the Law Society did not approve of electronic tagging of offenders. "These have not in our view been shown to have worked for remand prisoners and we do not think they will work if extended to convicted prisoners," Mr Ridley said.

He also expressed concern about the role of the probation service under the White Paper proposals. "Their co-operation and goodwill is essential

if these alternatives to custody are to work."

Mr Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, had shown that persuasion did not work when it came to getting judges and magistrates to reduce their use of custody.

The National Association of Probation Officers denounced the package as "flawed and contradictory". Mr Harry Fletcher, the association's assistant general secretary, said: "The Government is inspired by its belief in the need to appeal to the public's wish for retribution and revenge, rather than the reform and rehabilitation of offenders".

Magistrates will "do their level best" to make the proposals for more non-custodial penalties work. Mr John Hooper, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said: "We are substantially in favour of the whole tenor of them."

The Justice Clerks' Society also welcomed the "aims and objectives" of the proposals. Mr Michael Guy, of the society's criminal law committee, said he hoped there would be adequate funding from the Government for the probation service to "give courts confidence in using the alternatives at their disposal".

Parliament, page 12
Leading article, page 15

Policy might backfire 'if courts fail to impose new penalties'

REACTION TO THE PROPOSALS

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Any measures which will result in moving us from the top of the league table of people sent to prison must be welcome. ♦

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Reformists and conservatives fight their corners at Central Committee meeting

Pravda reveals depth of anti-Gorbachov feeling

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

Full reports in *Pravda* yesterday of the first submissions from the floor at the crisis Central Committee meeting of the Soviet Communist Party here have underscored the depth of division within the leadership and the bitter criticism of President Gorbachov from both the reformist and conservative wings.

Among the most outspoken delegates was Mr Vladimir Brovko, the Soviet Ambassador to Poland, who called for President Gorbachov's resignation over policies that he said had brought the Soviet Union to the brink of chaos.

The envoy declared: "Our tragedy is that we cannot abandon a single man's power

in state and the party. We run things on impulse, incompletely, without far-sightedness and caring not so much about the mood of the motherland but about other, maybe more personal, ambitions."

Mr Gorbachov's suggestion that the post of State President should become more wide-ranging and powerful received a mixed response from the Central Committee.

The only speaker to endorse his idea of a post with sufficient powers to push through controversial reforms, if necessary in the face of opposition from the party establishment, was the chairman of the state committee on education, Mr G Yagodin. He emphasized that a collective leadership was fine so long as

it did not result in a collective sense of irresponsibility.

A president, he said, should be someone who would take upon himself responsibility for the future of the country and for its present. "Of course, he ought to be elected by universal, direct and secret ballot, but probably that time has not yet come."

Until a new constitution was enacted, he said, the President could be elected by the Congress of People's Deputies, but a new constitution should stipulate the term of office a President should serve and mechanisms for monitoring his work.

Vagueness and indecision in the party policy platform introduced by Mr Gorbachov on Monday were charges lev-

ed by both wings of the party hierarchy.

For the reformists, Mr Boris Yeltsin said he had gained the impression that the platform had been written by one left hand and one right, and there had been a "constant attempt

from Leningrad, Mr Yuri Arhipov, said that rank-and-file members were leaving the party, sensing that it had no future. In the past few months, the Leningrad party had received no applications for membership.

After blaming the committee for reducing tens of millions of people to destitution, he outlined a 10-point programme, including the abolition of the party's sacred principle of democratic centralism; provision for dissent within the party; the abolition of the party apparatus — a stir among Chinese who heard the news on foreign radio stations like the BBC and even Radio Moscow.

to reconcile the two, with concessions first to one side and then to the other." Like

A regional party secretary

really have to go into opposition before the voice of Communists is heard?" He warned of the imminent danger of an open split within the party.

Mr Yuri Prokofyev, Moscow city first secretary, who is regarded as a reformist, argued, was to come out clearly in favour of a multi-party system, cancel Article 6, and adopt all the recommendations of the "democratic platform" — the inner party faction established last month — on democratizing the party.

Some of the most passionate contributions came from the other side of the argument, however. Mr Valentin Mesyats, first secretary of the Moscow region, said that indecision and concessions made by the leader-

ship were continuing to weaken the party's position. The rise of unofficial and popular front groups had been tolerated to the point where the party was in danger of relegation to the "political margin".

Like several other conservatives he condemned the proposal that the party should have to compete and negotiate with other groups. It had a special history and place in Soviet society and could not just abandon its leading role like that. If it reduced itself to the level of other groups, it would be quite unable to restore its authority.

Mr Mesyats attacked those who "carried a party card in their pocket but made speeches against the party line".

From Ian Mu...
Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister for Defence, yesterday...
Secretary General of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, but...
He said that...
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New US offer to cut back planes

From Martin Fletcher
Washington

The United States has put forward a compromise proposal on military aircraft limits in an attempt to surmount the biggest obstacle to an agreement on reducing conventional forces in Europe before the end of the year.

The new proposal is close to the Soviet position and was agreed by Nato allies in Brussels on Monday.

Barring last-minute snags, Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, will put the proposal to Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, during their meetings in Moscow over the next three days. Nato will present it to Soviet officials in the Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna tomorrow.

US officials hope that agreement in principle could be reached as early as next week, when Nato and Warsaw Pact foreign ministers are meeting at the "Open Skies" conference in Ottawa. "It should interest them (the Soviet Union) a lot," said one official. "It is a real sign that we take what they say fairly seriously and are interested in concluding a deal."

Originally opposed to the inclusion of aircraft in the Conventional Forces in Europe talks, the US has slowly moved towards the Soviet position but has insisted that a treaty should cover all military aircraft and not just "strike" aircraft.

The new proposal envisages a 4,700 limit on Nato and Warsaw Pact combat aircraft, down from the 5,700 limit Nato had earlier proposed and the same as Mr Shevardnadze put forward when he met Mr Baker last September.

There would be a separate limit of 500 on Warsaw Pact fighters which Moscow insists have a purely defensive role, but Nato would be able to put an equivalent number of its own fighters into that category as well. Moscow wants to keep 1,000 such aircraft. Nato has argued that distinguishing between planes with defensive and offensive roles is impractical.

At least 2,200 Soviet trainer planes with no offensive capability would be excluded from any agreement. The Russians had wanted all their 5,700 trainer planes excluded, arguing that American trainer planes were in the US and not covered by the Conventional Forces in Europe talks.

The proposal "is really structured in a way that should appeal to them and I am optimistic we should be able to close a deal," said one senior US official. However, he acknowledged that the question of whether bombers should be included in the limit on combat planes, and if so which ones, remained a stumbling block.

• PARIS: M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, called on the US to forego a bloc-to-bloc approach to disarmament talks to account for the recent sweeping changes in Europe (AFP report). A polarized approach to negotiations involving the two military alliances would be a total anachronism in view of a Europe free of its yoke, he said.

Referring to the upcoming "Open Skies" conference in Ottawa, to seek an agreement on reciprocal aerial surveillance of nations, M Dumas said it was one of those initiatives that fell back on outdated patterns in relations.

Washington wanted the conference to be open to Nato and Warsaw Pact members only. But Mr Baker softened the US stand in talk with M Dumas at Shannon, in the Irish Republic, saying neutral and non-aligned nations would get observer status.

Privatized break-out from Ceausescu's economic jail

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Post-revolutionary Romania yesterday took the first cautious step to break out of the economic straitjacket imposed by the Ceausescu dictatorship with the publication of a decree legalizing limited privatization of industry for the first time in more than 40 years.

Under the complex law signed by the interim President, Mr Ion Iliescu, a former leading member of the now defunct Communist Party, private firms employing a maximum of 20 salaried employees may now be established as well as "associations" or co-operatives comprising a maximum of 10 individuals or members of a single family.

The extreme caution of the measures reflects the divisions in the country about the extent to which private capital should be permitted to take over state enterprises, most of which suffer from gross mismanagement.

The ruling National Salvation Front has secured overwhelming support from the working class because of its opposition to any widespread privatization or the creation of what is described by officials as a "boss class". The workers fear that such moves would lead to big lay-offs.

Foreign experts aware of Romania's grave economic problems said that the law, although politically controversial, was not on a sufficient scale to rectify the clumsy moves made under Ceausescu to transform an essentially agricultural nation into one dominated by large-scale heavy industries.

One European economist

said: "As with the introduction of co-operatives in the Soviet Union under Gorbachov, this new law is likely to affect mainly the service industries. It may lead to the setting up of some restaurants, cafes and small shops, but even they are going to face the problem of securing supplies on a centrally controlled market."

The argument over privatization has emerged as the issue which will dominate campaigning for the May 20

Mrs Doina Cornea: Seeking radical privatization.

general election. Many of the 29 opposition parties are pushing for privatization on a much wider scale, and the largest, the National Peasants Party, is fighting to be allowed to bring in Western capital.

Among the leading figures supporting privatization is Mrs Doina Cornea, the dissident who resigned from the Front because of its failure to abandon old style communist methods and personnel.

"Industry and agriculture would be rendered more profitable on the basis of

private property," she stated, "and such reforms should be radical in nature."

Mrs Cornea, who was given prime time on Romanian television recently to develop her views, supports the leasing rather than closing down of the country's many unprofitable enterprises.

"I think they would be better leased on a contract basis over a definite period of five up to 10 years to foreign firms that want to invest capital and modernize them."

A visit to any large Romanian factory reveals strong opposition to any such move from workers convinced that their jobs would be on the line.

Mr Ion Neacsu, a fitter at Bucharest's vast August 23 plant which makes trams, rolling stock and underground carriages, said: "We do not want bosses coming from abroad and throwing us out of work. We have our families to feed."

Workers from the plant, which was Ceausescu's favoured and thrived on a totally fictitious set of production figures now being exposed to the public, were prominent in last week's mass demonstrations in support of the Front. Many mobbed the headquarters of the National Peasants Party because of its campaign to bring in foreign capital.

Although leaders of the Front are against what Mr Iliescu has dismissed scathingly as "global privatization", so far they have put forward little in the way of alternatives beyond maintaining existing inefficient Stalinist structures for running a centralized economy. Even

Talk of Soviet-style perestroika is limited.

Because the country was

dominated until recently by agriculture (it was once Europe's biggest sheep producer after Britain), the workforce has no industrial traditions and its products are shoddy.

Many factories are running

seven below capacity beca-

use of a lack of raw materials

and others have been hit by

the post-revolutionary in-

duction of a five-day week as

opposed to a seven-day one.

The interim Government's

short-term, emergency mea-

asures to divert supplies ear-

marked for export back on

to the home market have begun

to wear thin. At the weekend,

queues of more than 300

people could be counted out-

side an ill-fit store in the centre

of the capital jostling for

unpalatable frozen fish.

Prior to yesterday's limited

introduction of private enter-

prise, an earlier decree was

published which stated that peasant farmers were to be allowed to sell produce on the free market and to own up to 1½ acres of land each. Opposition parties had argued that those measures were far too limited to cope with the present crisis.

The Front's watchword of

caution was supported in an article on the pros and cons of privatization published by the official Rompres news agency.

"Immediate and hasty solu-

tions cannot be forced," it

said. "The future of economic

and political life in Romania

must be carefully thought out.

Let us not forget that four

republics were tested in

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The Front's watchword of

Hurd urges caution on road to one Germany

From Ian Murray, Sankt Augustin, West Germany

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday gave full British backing to German reunification but urged caution.

He said that "it would not be in the interests of the German people to achieve unification in circumstances which aroused anxieties or sent nerves jangling throughout Europe".

Mr Hurd insisted that Nato had to remain militarily strong and the European Community should wait at least three years before increasing its membership.

The Foreign Secretary, addressing the conservative Konrad Adenauer Foundation at this town near Bonn, offered "constructive friendship" on reunification, but also urged a mixture of "caution, enthusiasm and confidence in each other's commitment" to build a new Europe.

Mr Hurd, who went on to meetings in Bonn with Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and his opposite number, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, agreed "we now need to be fertile with fresh thinking" but he emphasized that there had to be no abandonment of "those earlier policies which will remain important".

A continuing military structure for Nato was of paramount importance. The future was unsettled, even if "no longer massively threatening". Because of this, "it would clearly be foolish to suppose that our defence and security problems have in some way been solved and that we no longer need to think seriously about them. All history warns us against such empty optimism".

As far as reunification was concerned, however, he said that until a few days ago, "none of us has yet begun to think with any rigour of the

consequences for the alliance. Since then, new ideas, notably that of Herr Genscher in suggesting a demilitarized East Germany, as part of a united Germany inside Nato, have been put forward".

Mr Hurd hinted that this would be one option to be considered in attempting to solve the problem of keeping Germany in Nato while satisfying Moscow's legitimate — if unrealistic — security concerns.

He accepted the need for a "rigorous review" in Europe and Nato to establish which policies needed to be kept and which should change "to ensure that flexibility which will be needed for our future success". He listed five elements of Nato as "necessary continuing attributes":

- Maintenance of its present membership; German membership "a crucial element in the security of us all";

- The US strategic commitment — in other words an American nuclear deterrent;

- The presence of "significant" American, British and Canadian forces stationed in Europe — meaning a garrison in Germany;

- A "sensible" mix of nuclear and conventional weapons — necessarily requiring nuclear missiles based in Germany;

- An integrated command.

All but the last of these are being hotly debated in West Germany, with the pressure for more disarmament becoming a key issue in the December general election.

On EC relations with the emerging democracies in the East, he favoured individually tailored association deals.

He was applause when he said: "It is inconceivable to us that, of all peoples in Europe, only the German people should be denied that right (of self-determination).

"That is our commitment and conviction."

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Havel points way to a new course



President Havel of Czechoslovakia, left, welcoming Mr James Baker, the United States Secretary of State, to Prague yesterday. Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, also arrived in

the Czechoslovak capital boosting Mr Havel's attempts to steer a new, independent course in his country's international relations (Peter Green writes). Meanwhile, Czechoslovak negotiators left for

Moscow yesterday to begin a second round of bilateral talks concerning Prague's demands that the Soviet Union withdraw its 80,000 troops from Czechoslovakia by the end of this year.

Race to save East German economy

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, moved yesterday to stave off the collapse of the East German economy and to regain the political initiative with a call for immediate talks on currency union and economic reforms.

Herr Kohl said he would raise the matter, at his meeting next Tuesday and Wednesday in Bonn, with Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister.

The Chancellor is trying to force the pace towards introducing the Deutschmark as a common currency in both Germanies, despite strong reservations from the Bundesbank. He made the offer

after a meeting of his Christian Democrat and Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) executive yesterday, when it was also agreed to create a supplementary budget of DM7 billion (£2.5 billion) to meet the extra cost of helping East Germany and to pay for the integration of ethnic German refugees.

The budget, expected to be introduced next Wednesday, will set aside DM2.15 billion to subsidize the exchange rates for East Germans visiting the West.

Another DM2 billion is to help German refugees.

Other money will help improve transport links, the environment and promote

small company investment. The Government thinks the main way of helping the East German economy would be the quick replacement, by the Deutschmark, of the East German mark, which on the black market is exchanged at 20 to one.

But Herr Otto Pöhl, the central bank's president, said coldly yesterday, after two and a half hours of talks with his East German opposite number, Herr Horst Kemmler, that it was a "fantastic suggestion" to talk of a quick takeover by the Deutschmark.

It would, he said firmly, take some time to accomplish. As the head of the institution which would have to run such

a scheme he has the final say. There has been mounting public criticism that the Bonn Government has failed to move quickly enough to help East Germany and to stem the flow of refugees, still pouring in at the rate of more than 2,000 a day.

In further moves, Herr Kohl presides over a Cabinet meeting today seeking to draw up a schedule for reunification in every sphere but defence, while West German political parties, brushing aside the East German plea not to participate in the March election campaign, are drawing up alliances with "brother" parties and preparing tours for senior speakers.

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Aoun celebrates artillery success

West Beirut — General Michel Aoun's army yesterday celebrated the elimination of artillery positions in hills overlooking the town of Dbayeh five miles north of the capital, the general's most successful operation in his costly seven-day war against the Phalangist militia of Mr Samir Geagea (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

According to military sources, infantrymen backed by heavy artillery and tank fire stormed and destroyed seven militia garrisons and gun emplacements in the hills above Dbayeh which is on the coastal road linking Beirut with northern Lebanon and maritime lines used by the militias to ferry men and ammunition to its beleaguered garrisons in the capital. Mr Samir Geagea's forces were said last night to be trying to prevent tanks and other armour moving towards Jounieh and Byblos, two key Phalangist bastions.

Menem praises UK

Buenos Aires — President Menem of Argentina, in a meeting yesterday with Lord King of Wartnaby, chairman of British Airways, said he had "the highest respect" for Mrs Thatcher and her Government (David Brewerton writes). He is anxious to restore full diplomatic relations with Britain as soon as possible and said he is keen to encourage foreign investment in Argentina. The two countries may announce resumption of diplomatic relations next week when senior officials meet in Madrid. *Airline offer*, page 23

Hunt for bus killers

Jerusalem — As six of the 10 Israeli victims of Sunday's terrorist attack on a tourist bus in Egypt were buried yesterday, Egyptian police said they were close to tracking down one of the gunmen, a Palestinian travelling on a Jordanian passport (Richard Owen writes). Police are also hunting for a second Palestinian. The Palestinian driver of the attacked bus is being held. Police believe that the attack was mounted by Egyptian Muslim fundamentalists and Palestinian extremists opposed to the more moderate policies pursued by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Koran publisher sues

Paris — The Paris-based publisher of the controversial, cartoon version of the Koran said yesterday that he was preparing to sue Islamic religious authorities in the courts in Tunis (Alan Tiller writes). Mr Youssef Seddik, a Tunisian publisher, said that he planned a British edition in May whatever the outcome of his case in Tunis. His case there will be based on the separation of church and state. His book, *If The Koran Had Been Told To Me*, was theologically correct, he said, adding that he was an Islamic scholar and had gone to considerable pains to avoid offence.

Boat people meeting

Kuala Lumpur — Malaysia and Vietnam have begun talks to link the Vietnamese boat people to a bilateral trade and economic agreement (M.G.G. Pillai writes). Dato Ahmad Kamil Jaffar, the Malaysian foreign secretary, returned from the first round of meetings in Hanoi last week and said that they would be resumed in Kuala Lumpur within four weeks.

TV hoax on Italians

Rome (Reuter) — A television documentary that convinced millions the Italian republic was founded on a fraud, after a 1946 referendum on abolishing the monarchy "had been rigged", provoked a storm of criticism yesterday. At the end of the programme, Gianni Minoli, the host, said the hoax had been staged to show how TV could be manipulated.



Protesters keep up Kashmir tension

From Christopher Thomas
Delhi

Thousands of anti-Pakistan demonstrators marched through Indian Kashmir's capital of Jammu yesterday as cross-border tensions escalated. The Pakistan High Commission in Delhi was besieged by protesters.

Events of the past 48 hours have demonstrated how quickly the Kashmiri crisis could run out of control, despite clear evidence that both Delhi and Islamabad are struggling to contain it.

Both sides are under domestic pressure to adopt a tough stance. Mr Basir Khan Barar, Pakistan's High Commissioner in Delhi, was summoned to the External Affairs Ministry yesterday to be told that a shooting incident on the border on Monday was the result of inflammatory actions and statements by Pakistani leaders.

The shooting happened when a large crowd — said by India to number 4,000 — marched towards the border. Some people crossed over and Indian forces opened fire, killing one and injuring 13.

Reports from Jammu said that more than 10,000 college students marched through the city in protest at Pakistani "interference" in Kashmir. The Jammu region is predominantly Hindu; the Kashmir Valley is mostly Muslim.

India formally conveyed its "grave concern and deep regret" over the shooting and the attempted border crossing. Foreign journalists are banned from Indian Kashmir but on-the-spot reports from Indian correspondents yesterday suggested that the crowd tried to cross at four border points. Most were stopped by the Pakistani rangers, but some finally got through at a section for United Nations observers.

Tensions over Kashmir could be inflamed even further during campaigning next week for key elections to eight state assemblies, most of them in the northern Hindi-language belt.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, and his



Indian forces using tear gas against Muslim protesters at Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir state on Friday. Foreign journalists are barred from the area.

Congress (I) party are braced

for another crushing defeat, the second in three months.

The expected defeat is bound to heighten dissatisfaction with Mr Gandhi's leadership, although there is still a keen sense that without him the party would split. It is the value of Mr Gandhi's name, rather than any conviction about his leadership, that has so far protected him from serious challenges.

To make matters worse, Hindu extremists have chosen February 14, when the election campaign will be in full swing, to begin construction of a temple at the site of a 16th-century mosque in Ayodhya. The National Front Government is trying to persuade organizers to delay the plan.

The campaign will be influenced by three crises — Kashmir, Punjab and a diminishing cross-border tension.

gurous Muslim-Hindu dispute over a religious site at Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. Both Kashmir and Ayodhya could inflame communal strife — Kashmir because of its broader Pakistan-versus-India dimension, and Ayodhya because it is in the middle of a volatile Hindu area where millions of Muslims also live.

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The Punjabi crisis is also

inflaming cross-border ten-

sions.

Hyderabad, the two main cities of Sind province, issued a general strike call against what it says are growing atrocities of the Pakistani Peop-

le's Party.

Hundreds of MQM ac-

tivists attacked police stations

in Arambagh district of Kar-

rachi yesterday demanding the

registration of murder cases

against the People's Party

leader. At least 13 people were

seriously wounded in an ex-

change of fire and troops were

called in.

More than 10 people have

been killed in Karachi in

pitched street gun battles over

the last week.

Mr Asaduzzaman Bhutto, the

main leader of the MQM, a

militant organization of the

Mohajir nationalists, has

called President Ishaq Khan

to dismiss the People's Party

Governor and declare emer-

gency and presidential rule in

Sind province. Mr Bhutto

accused the People's Party of

fanning ethnic conflict in the

province to perpetuate its re-

gion.

Miss Bhutto has sent Mr

Aitzaz Ahsan, her Home Min-

ister, to Karachi to handle the

situation.

Bush's choice of black judge puts liberals to test

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

President Reagan's chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1982, he reformed policies for settling discrimination complaints.

Conservatives have been angered that the Senate judiciary committee, which is chaired by Senator Joseph Biden, a Democrat from Delaware, has been hunting for evidence that Mr Thomas discriminated against Hispanics while he chaired the commission.

The position he will fill was last held by Judge Robert Bork, who was rejected as a President Reagan nominee to the Supreme Court.

Mr Thomas, who grew up poor in the South before the civil rights crusade of Martin Luther King, is a conservative. Liberals seem to disapprove of him for one of the main reasons that Republicans describe him as a rising star. He is a critic of affirmative action, the quota system for employing racial minorities.

He is regarded as a potential successor to the Supreme Court's only black judge, Justice Thurgood Marshall, if the Democrat-controlled Senate judiciary committee, which started confirmation proceedings yesterday, approves his current nomination.

His approach to discrimination contrasts sharply with that of Justice Marshall, who has championed the view that blacks should be compensated with job and education opportunities for decades of oppression.

Mr Thomas resents what he calls "racism of sympathy" and has voiced frustration at the way affirmative action has degenerated, with the support of left-wing groups, into a system of quotas that also discriminates minorities.

Yet Mr Thomas also fought the White House for failing to produce a "positive civil rights agenda" and, as Presi-

dent Reagan's chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1982, he reformed policies for settling discrimination complaints.

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"Clarence Thomas has felt the last of injustice," said Mr William Robinson, the Dean of the District of Columbia School of Law, in a letter to the *Legal Times*. "He's old enough to have experienced the pre-1964 apartheid system in this country."

Mr Thomas, a man of steady independence, grew up in Georgia where restaurants and bus seating were segregated. His father abandoned him when he was small and he was brought up by his grandmother from the age of seven. As the first black enrolled at an exclusive boarding school in Savannah, he received a good education but suffered personal indignities. At night classmate told him to smile "so we can see you". One of his peers wrote in a yearbook: "Keep on trying, Clarence. One day you will be as good as us." Later, he read Malcolm X, toyed with black nationalism and eventually held posts as Assistant Attorney General in Missouri.

"His life is his own best testimony," the *Wall Street Journal* wrote in an editorial.

But civil rights groups are divided. Fourteen liberal members of Congress have opposed his nomination to the Court of Appeals. The nomination has drawn so much attention in Washington that leaders of prominent civil rights organizations are not taking a stand.

Strikes hit services in Greece

Athens (Reuter) — A wave of strikes engulfed Greece yesterday with power blackouts in the capital and port operations severely disrupted.

Hospital doctors and bus drivers were also among those demanding more pay and fresh cuts on rising costs. About 30,000 electricity workers began a two-day strike yesterday.

Briton critical

Singapore (Reuter) — Norman Parkinson, the British photographer, improved slightly after brain surgery here but remains critically ill.

Envoy ousted

Geneva (AFP) — A Chinese diplomat was expelled from a meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights here when he tried to photograph a Tibetan who spoke during the debate.

Satellite plan

Aba Dhasi (Reuter) — Iraq will soon launch its own satellite after last year's test of a carrier rocket, an Iraqi official was quoted as saying.

Student riot

Seoul (Reuter) — Hundreds of South Korean students, denouncing the merger of President Roh's party with two opposition groups, fought a battle with riot police here.

Cholera move

Lusaka (AP) — The Zambian Government has closed all schools in the capital to stop the spread of cholera.

Nepal arrests

Kathmandu (AP) — Authorities arrested 60 more members of the banned Nepali Congress Party, a party spokesman said.

Doctors lost

Nairobi (Reuter) — Two doctors working for the medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières are missing in southern Sudan and thought to be in the hands of rebels.

Killer jailed

Los Angeles (Reuter) — Milos Kivana, a Czechoslovak-born obstetrician, has been jailed for 53 years for the second-degree murder of eight babies and a fœtus.

Order defied

Kuala Lumpur (Reuter) — More than 3,000 Malaysian plantation labourers defied a government order and remained on strike to press their pay demands.

Priest out

The Iranian newspaper, *Teheran Times*, suggested last August that Iran would intervene with the hostage-takers if the US released Iranian assets frozen 10 years earlier by President Carter.

Mafia trial

Dapper Don bets on beating rap

From Charles Bremer, New York

A New York jury yesterday started to consider the fate of Mr John Gotti, the last surviving "Godfather" of the American Mafia, after a circus-like trial that appeared only to have boosted the defendant's belief in his invincibility and standing as a media celebrity.

"No problem," Mr Gotti chuckled as he left the courthouse surrounded by his entourage of soldiers to await the jury's verdict on a charge that he ordered the shooting of a disreputable union official. If convicted, Mr Gotti will face a life sentence.

Mr Gotti, whose taste for expensive tailoring has earned him the nickname "Dapper Don", has laid three-to-one bets that he will beat the latest rap that federal prosecutors have brought against him in their war to cripple his command of the Gambino "crime family".

The Gambinos are the only old-style Mafia clan still operating after an unprecedent purge of the mob hierarchy in the 1980s.

In a three-week televised trial, Mr Gotti's lawyers worked hard to undermine the two key points of prosecution evidence — a tape-recording in which he is alleged to have ordered the shooting and the testimony of an underworld associate. The prosecutors were forced to acknowledge that the recording, made at the

Far right threat hangs over Mandela

From Gavin Bell
Cape Town

The personal safety of Nelson Mandela after he is released is a source of profound concern to the South African Government and the African National Congress.

The furious reaction of the white right wing to the removal of bans on the ANC has fuelled fears of Mandela falling victim to an assassin's bullet and of ensuing chaos.

Mr Bruce Cutler, the chief defence lawyer, denounced the prosecutors for waging a vendetta against his client.

"The majesty of this courtroom can be sullied with the corruption of this case," Mr Cutler told the jury. "In the prosecutor's lust for headlines and a noteworthy figure as they accused, they forgot

that justice is not served by their extremist followers, have done nothing to diminish the anxiety.

Dr Andries Treurnicht, leader of the far-right Conservative Party, has condemned Mr de Klerk's moves as "absolutely outrageous", and announced a national campaign aimed at recruiting a million supporters to

oppose the Government. The white population would be mobilized, he said, under the slogan: "A free nation in its own fatherland".

Mr Tom Langley, a Conservative front-bencher, said he would not be surprised if young whites resorted to violent confrontation, and the leader of the ultra-right Boeremont Party has warned of the threat of civil war.

While such statements present no direct threat to Mandela, there are well-armed fanatics in clandestine white organizations who do.

A shotgun attack on the British Embassy in Pretoria at the weekend was a reminder of what they are capable of against ill-defended targets. The assailants had time to run up a flag of the old Boer republics and daub a slogan: "The struggle begins — Order of the Boer People" on an embassy gate.

Since then, the rhetoric of right-wing politicians and sporadic violence by their extremist followers, have done nothing to diminish the anxiety.

Compared to other countries where public figures are under threat, security here often appears lax, and a long list of anti-apartheid activists murdered in recent years testifies to the impunity with which white "death squads" operate.

Mandela's first days of freedom may be the most critical. He will be besieged by thousands of admirers,

and pursued by hordes of journalists wherever he goes.

Mr Johnny Isak, a prominent ANC activist once wanted by the security police, says the threat to Mandela should not be underestimated. "We are taking this very seriously. The right is in a very confused state; they are acting irrationally, and have already started attacking and killing blacks."

He said the best solution would be for Mandela to be guarded by his own "soldiers" from the armed wing of the ANC. "The Government allows other politicians who visit the country to bring their own armed bodyguards, so why not Mandela? If we cannot protect him with arms, we will do so with our own lives if necessary."

Mr Isak discounted suggestions that Mandela was under threat from black radicals opposed to any form of negotiations with the Government.

Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister for Constitutional Development, said yesterday that Mandela would be released "very soon" and special security measures were being considered.

In the heated political climate, Mr de Klerk may also be a potential target, but Mandela clearly runs the greater risk.

Japan cult chief offers salvation

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Shoko Asahara, a maverick Buddhist sect leader who makes devotees drink his blood and sip potions brewed from his long black hair, is offering Japanese voters an unusual alternative to the grey-suited candidates in this month's general election.

His notoriety grew after police questioned him about the disappearance last year of a lawyer who fought for families that had lost children to his cult. Mr Tsutomu Sakamoto, aged 33, his wife and his baby son vanished from their home in Yokohama more than two months ago and their whereabouts remain a mystery. Police found a badge of Mr Asahara's sect on the floor of the Sakamoto's empty house.

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February 6 1990

PARLIAMENT

DENZIL MCNEELAND

Sentencing change 'is biggest in 50 years'

Wide-ranging changes in the sentencing of criminals were outlined to MPs by Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, when he made a statement on his White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*.

He said that the proposals pointed to the most fundamental and far-reaching changes for at least half a century in the way offenders were punished.

Mr Waddington said that, in preparing the proposals for a coherent legislative framework for sentencing, the Government's aim had been to ensure that offenders were punished according to the seriousness of their crimes, to see that they received what they deserved, and to see that the public was properly protected.

Really serious crime, particularly serious violent crime, had to be followed by very severe punishment. The right punishment for serious violent crime was a long prison sentence.

The Government believed that it should have at the forefront of its mind the victims of crime. It was time to spell out what victims were entitled to expect, what help was available to them, and to consider what more had to be done.

The Government would be publishing a Victims Charter on February 22, European Victims Day.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that Labour strongly supported the principles on which the White Paper was based.

There should be a distinction in sentencing policy between violent and sexually related crimes and less serious crimes against property. Less serious offenders should be punished in the community. For first offenders, prison was more likely to

HOME OFFICE

promote a life of crime than prevent it.

Labour welcomed linking fines to an ability to pay, the requirement of courts to consider probation reports before awarding custodial sentences, and to give reasons for awarding prison sentences.

Labour had no argument with the principles, but only with the way in which they would be implemented.

There were still discrepancies between sentencing in different courts, between men and women, and black and Asian British citizens. The Government had urged the judiciary to make more use of non-custodial sentences, but it had not responded.

Steps should be taken to ensure greater consistency in sentencing policy. The Government should not have set its face against a sentencing council.

Labour welcomed the proposals to make probation automatic for prison sentences of less than four years. If the Carlisle report (on parole arrangements) were implemented immediately, what assessment had the Government made of the effect on the number of men and women serving custodial sentences?

If parole were only given when half the sentence had been served, the prison population would rise by 4,000. It would be absurd if the first effect of the White Paper was to increase the prison population.

When the Government made its statement on compensation it should, as an absolute minimum, replace the right to compensation that was reduced or removed by the Criminal Justice Act, 1988.

Changes that had been made in the threshold for those entitled to claim compensation for

violent crime had removed that right from about 10,000 people a year. The Government should ratify the European Convention for victims of violent crime.

The Government's task was to reduce both crime and the prison population from their present record levels. The real test of its determination to do so was the courage with which it put the principles in the White Paper into practice.

Mr Waddington said that the Government was determined to make sentences served closer to the ones that were passed by ensuring that everyone served at least 50 per cent.

The Opposition had shrunk from that added protection to the public and was determined to stick to the policy of offenders, even violent ones, being released into community after serving only a third of their sentence.

The prison population was at record levels; it had fallen by 2,500 in the past 12 months as a result of judges responding to calls to send fewer people to prison.

The Government did not believe that an elaborate structure, such as a sentencing council interfering in judicial discretion, was the right course. Mandatory sentences could result in far longer sentences.

No one had been able to make a precise estimate of the effects of the new package. But the Government looked to the future with confidence and in the belief that it would have a continuing downward effect on the prison population.

Mr John Wheeler (Westminster North, C), a former prison governor, said that the proposals were among the most radical and practical in almost 50 years. Among other things, hooligans would at last be dealt with in an accountable way, as the public wanted.

Mr Robert Mackay, Liberal Democrat spokesman on

home affairs, said that there was much to welcome in the White Paper in its clear attempt to distinguish between serious crimes and less serious crimes which were unsuitable for custodial treatment. That was a big step in penal policy.

However, many would have some doubt about the efficacy of the proposed measures. The Court of Appeal guidelines had proved ineffective in producing consistency in sentencing and in reducing the extraordinarily long sentences as compared with those in other countries. Mr Waddington should not set his mind against a sentencing council and sentencing guidelines if the proposed measures did not achieve the results sought.

Mr Waddington said that he did not think that a new body would achieve more than the present system had. He understood that a sentencing council would merely lay down guidelines on appropriate sentences for particular categories of offence.

Credit must be given to the judges. Sentencing practice, particularly with regard to young offenders, had been changed, and that was a reason for the fall in the prison population.

Mr Steven Norris (Epping Forest, C) said that there could be no more powerful weapon to reduce criminality than linking offenders' rights with responsibilities.

Mr Waddington said that parents had the first opportunity to inculcate into children a sense of right and wrong and respect for the property of others.

Mr Jack Ashby (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab) welcomed the intention to give tougher treatment to those guilty of violent crime. He hoped that those guilty of violent rape would get the toughest treatment of all.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board had proved pathetically inadequate to its task.

White Paper include measures to deal with football hooliganism?

Mr Waddington said that curfew orders monitored by electronic tagging might be applied.

Mr Ian Stansfeld (Oprington, C) congratulated Mr Waddington on the proposals, but said that it would be very undesirable if the Government were to fetter judicial discretion in sentencing and produce a system of mandatory sentencing.

Mr Jacques Arnold (Gravesend, C) asked for an assurance that the community service would be tough on hooligans. Would they be put to work doing something useful?

Mr Waddington: We are going to lay down national guidelines for community service so that there is consistency.

I can assure him that we have in mind that community service should be tough and demanding.

Lord Windlesham, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Mr Austin Mitchell (left) with Rachael Garvey, the model, and Mr Frank Field at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, yesterday, at the start of Challenge, part of a retail industry drive to buy British-made clothing and shoes.

Mr Weddington said that the board's powers had recently been extended. It could now make compensation awards to those suffering shock in some cases, and to women who decided to have children after a rape. Efforts were continually being made to extend the remedies for victims of crime.

Mr John Greenaway (Rydal, C) said that the concept of the punishment fitting the crime and his policy of getting tough with violent offenders would be popular with the public. Did the

White Paper include measures to deal with football hooliganism?

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Lord Windlesham, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Bill would tackle car fraud

Dishonesty and fraud were

ripe in the motor trade and the time was long overdue

when they should be tackled

by legislation, Mr Gareth

Wardell (Gower, Lab) said.

He was given leave

under the 10-minute rule to introduce the *Motor Trade (Consumer Protection) Bill*. It would give trading standards officers the power to inspect used cars for sale on garage forecourts.

Ironically, he now faces

voting in civil war

in the province of Kosovo.

nine out of 10 of the

ethnic Albanians

reported to have died

with riot police and

troops rolled in.

Albanians headed east

to the Black Sea to emigrate

to Albania, the poor

region of all the Balkan

states.

Eastern Europe

find out

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Mackay pledge on embryo research

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government is to consider how to meet anxieties about the protection of an embryo in its first 30 hours after a decision has been made on the general issue of whether experiments should be permitted on embryos at any stage.

During the committee stage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill in the House of Lords, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said that the Government would consider in the light of the decision on research whether the controls in the Bill for the period before the two-cell zygote was sufficient and would decide whether to introduce its own amendment.

Lady Elles (C) moved an amendment to define an embryo as existing from the time when the sperm completed penetration of the egg rather than, as in the Bill, from the first cell division to create a two-cell zygote.

She said that the amendment would not affect a later decision on whether to ban or permit experiments on embryos. It was not a wrecking amendment, but sought to ensure that the Government commitment that both Houses should have a free vote on research was fully honoured.

The Bill defined an embryo as beginning with the appearance of a two-cell zygote, but that was about 30 hours after the sperm entered the egg.

The amendment would close this 30-hour gap.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern agreed that the amendment would not affect the final debate on banning research. He said that the Bill defined an embryo by the point when the process of fertilization was completed with the appearance of the two-cell zygote.

Lord Adrián (Ind) said that if research were not banned, then it would be important that the period of 30 hours be covered.

Lady Elles said that in the light of Lord Adrián's speech, she would consider the matter on report she would withdraw the amendment.

EDUCATION REPORT

An angry Mr Neil Kinnock was addressed by the Prime Minister at question time when he attacked her over the "loony deal" that a third of children were getting in the nation's schools.

He was jeered by Conservative backbenchers and Mrs Thatcher said that she was glad that the inspectors whose report he was quoting dealt more calmly with the subject than he. She accused him of being temperamental and not responsive to her answers.

Mr Kinnock opened the exchanges when he asked if she accepted the conclusions of the inspectors' report which stated that a third of school children were getting a raw deal. "Does she not consider that it is a damning indictment of her Government?"

Mr Kinnock said that she had got the answer he had read it very carefully. It gave a better summary than had Mr Kinnock.

It said: "The overall picture is of a service in which most of what is done is of a reasonable quality or better. This is a sound basis for improvement and change and should be recognized as

such. The report had gone on to say that there were some things that were wrong and needed to be remedied (Labour interpretation), but across the schools inspected, 70 to 80 per cent of the work seen was adjudged to be satisfactory or better.

Mr Kinnock judged good or very good. That is not the profile of a service in great difficulty."

Mr Kinnock said if she realized what she was really saying. That because in two-thirds of cases things were not bad that somehow justified the fact that in one-third of cases they were lousy. In 30 per cent of cases pupils were getting a raw deal. "If she is going to try to get at the truth, why doesn't she go for the truth?"

Mr Kinnock said that the words she had used were not hers but those of the inspectors. She had accepted that there were still things that needed to be done.

More was being spent on education

per pupil than ever before, there were more teachers in proportion to pupils than ever before, the new national curriculum had been warmly praised in the inspectors' report. The teachers' pay settlement would give special help to teachers where they were needed, particularly in the shortage subjects.

An extra £400 million in capital support was being provided for further developments in schools.

Mr Kinnock: The Prime Minister speaks of a good report. It just shows how easily she is satisfied by the misrepresentation of other people's children. She speaks of reforms. Which of her reforms will provide mathematics, science, technology and language teachers where they are needed, or where, as the report recognizes, they are inadequately trained?

Which of her reforms ... (interruption from Conservative backbenchers). They do not even send their children to maintained schools (Labour cheers).

Which of her reforms are going to provide books in libraries where there are no books? Which are going to

provide equipment in the laboratories where there is no equipment? Which of her reforms will raise the morale of the teaching force and stop buildings closing?

Mr Kinnock: I am glad the inspectors faced their task more calmly than Mr Kinnock. More money is being spent per pupil in real terms than ever before. There are more teachers in proportion to children than ever before. There is a very good new teachers' pay settlement which will help to get those teachers in short supply in particular subjects.

There is a new national curriculum. The inspectors' report says that, across schools of all types, implementation of the national curriculum is beginning to bring about general and specific improvements.

Yes, of course there are still things to be done. There always will be, but it takes time, when Opposition MPs ask questions in a very temperamental way and refuse to listen to the answers. The education service is in far better shape than ever before.

Leading article, page 15

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Scots could not "touch it with a bargepole".

Lord Mishcon, an Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said that, without a grant of legal aid, 70 per cent of the population could not face a long civil case.

The Opposition pleaded with the Government not to make a mockery of the ideal that the courts were open to all. The proposal must not be a substitute for legal aid.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton (Ind) said that the clause was not in the interests of the client as a consumer.

Lord Morris (C) said that 90 per cent of people thought it a positive evil that the lawyer had no financial interest in the case.

Over and over again they felt that that meant that he had little or no reason to exert himself. People had a right to legal representation in cases. Workers in magistrates' courts and in other

courts believed strongly that a financial interest, properly geared, would concentrate the minds of lawyers much more.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, said that this clause was not a substitute for legal aid. It would be no part of the conditions required of an applicant for legal aid that he should try first for a conditional fee arrangement.

He was not seeking in the clause to do anything more than make such agreements possible. There was still full room for the professional bodies to make detailed rules about what precisely would happen.

The clause made it lawful to have a conditional fee agreement, related to the actual fee, with an "uplift", which he had described in the White Paper as modest.

From the moral point of view, there seemed to him no objection.

Such a right over and above legal aid struck him as a valuable one for the client. The agreement related to work done

and

SPECTRUM

The land where Stalin lives on

In the political turmoil of Eastern Europe, only Albania clings stubbornly to old-style Marxism. But behind the repression and the obsessive, all-pervading suspicion of outside influences, its people seem curiously content. George Hill went to the last outpost of orthodoxy to find out why

Eastern Europe's last domino is still standing, after all. As communist regimes tumble all the way from the Baltic to the Black Sea, commentators have hastened to extrapolate the trend to Albania, the poorest, harshest regime of all, the last redoubt of unabashed Stalinism. In neighbouring Yugoslavia, the first communist country to break free of Stalin's domination, reports were current last month of disorder and repression just across the border.

Ironically, it is Yugoslavia which now faces disorder — verging on civil war — in its province of Kosovo, where almost nine out of 10 of the population are ethnic Albanians. Dozens are reported to have died in clashes with riot police, and last week the tanks rolled in. The red flag of Albania, with its black, two-headed eagle, is flaunted by Kosovo dissidents with the same fervour as the former banners of Estonia, the Ukraine and even of the Tsars are brandished by demonstrators in other parts of Eastern Europe.

Meanwhile, Albania preserves a stoic and wary calm, as far as I



A people in the shadows of history: a statue of Stalin still stands in Tirana, the capital of Albania. To visitors, the sense of physical and intellectual claustrophobia is deeply oppressive

could judge on a recent 500-mile journey through the south and centre of the country. Even in the capital, Tirana, the crowds taking their evening promenade seemed outwardly contented with their lot, at a moment when fresh reports of widespread shooting there appeared in the Greek Press.

In the beautiful mountain

stronghold of Gjirokaster, in the heart of the allegedly repressed Greek minority community, the townspeople seemed cheerful as they chatted and whistled in the cobbled streets, or waited their turn to be shaved with a cut-throat razor in the centre of local male gossip, the barber's shop.

According to eye-witnesses, the dissidents' cry in Kosovo is: "Democracy". It is a tragic paradox that Yugoslavia, which used to be the least oppressive state in Eastern Europe, has been so split by ethnic discord that an embattled minority can identify democracy, even rhetorically, with the most undemocratic regime in the region.

The same paradox was apparent last year when the Moldavian minority within the Soviet Union called for unity with their kinsmen

in Romania even while Romania was still in the grip of modern Europe's most vicious dictatorship. Last month, Soviet Azerbaijanis tore down the frontier fence which separated them from their fellow-Muslims in the grim theocracy of Iran. Blood is proving to be thicker than the water of ideology all through the outlying regions of Stalin's disintegrating empire.

In the last resort, blood is probably a more relevant factor than ideology in explaining the anomalous durability of the Albanian regime, in its timewarp of the 1940s. The verbiage of Marxist-Leninist ideology is ubiquitous — printed in stark red and white on buildings and hoardings, picked out in white stones across mountainsides in letters 20ft high, and the only merchandise in what must be the most depressing bookshop in the universe. But the underlying significance of the message is akin to that expressed in the name of the IRA's political front, Sinn Fein — "Ourselfs Alone".

Independence is the central political issue in Albania. The obsessive suspicion towards all

outside influences which motivated Enver Hoxha, its leader for 40 years until his death in 1985, looks less like paranoia when one remembers that at different times in the 40 years before that, Albania had been partly or wholly under the control of no fewer than seven outside powers. Self-rule had existed only briefly, and democracy not at all.

Hoxha's reign was one long story of test broken off with allies suspected of growing too dominating. His

fear of being beholden was so extreme that he wrote a ban on foreign indebtedness into the national constitution. He ordered the construction of thousands of concrete machine-gun emplacements, turning the whole country into a fantastic pattern of Maginot lines. Religion, a long-standing source of internal division, was summarily suppressed.

In effect, the regime chose to be separate, whatever the consequences — to be poor rather than dependent. Hoxha's successors, more pragmatic in their attitude towards outward contacts, have

risked only slight relaxations in the apparatus of internal control. While the rest of Europe has moved towards affluence, Albania has been left behind in a self-sufficient poverty which is now only paralleled in the Third World. Per capita, even Yugoslavia's gross national product is more than twice as large as Albania's. That of Greece, poorest member of the EC, is four times as large. In the per capita league, Albania comes a little way behind Turkey and a little way ahead of Egypt.

For visitors, this can be picturesque. In some respects, Thomas Hardy would find the agriculture antiquated. The ox-cart is a common sight on country roads than the motor-car. Even in January, the fields are dotted not only with pill-boxes but also with troops of women in white head-scarves and brightly-coloured dresses, digging carrots or scratching at the soil with hoes. The village wash is done in a stream, the dirt beaten out of the clothes as if soap had never been invented. Women carry firewood back to the village, or balance heavy jars on their heads. When

their work is done they sink down, pinched and weary, in attitudes of complete physical exhaustion. Three-fifths of the population live on the land: the Industrial Revolution has scarcely arrived.

Even in the towns, the rhythm of life appears dulling. Lowry-like multitudes of walking figures throng Tirana's immense central square in the rush-hour, slowly making their way to work. In town and country alike, long hours are spent sitting at the roadside in an almost oriental patience, waiting to be taken to wherever one has been ordered to go.

The people do not live in squalor. The necessities of life are available, and cheap. Income tax does not exist (the exchequer is funded from the earnings of Albania's rich mineral resources, which alone have made the whole experiment possible). Conditions have improved perceptibly over the past 10 years. Prices and earnings are tightly controlled, and the black market fiercely suppressed, so that there is little to be gained by busting about. Nobody can become really rich, but nobody need be indigent.

To visitors, the sense of physical

and intellectual claustrophobia is deeply oppressive. If the people appear, as they do, to take the obtrusive presence of armed police and plain-clothes security agents as a matter of course, their private feelings may be very different. But one cannot necessarily assume that they are nursing resentful feelings of resentment.

The official media make the most of the tumult in the socialist world. Kosovar took up the greater part of the television news whenever I watched. Graphic film from Azerbaijan, showing corpses in the snow and a Muslim militant passionately kissing his Koran, rubbed in a message congenial to a xenophobic, atheist regime.

An Albanian official enthusiastically outlined to me the beauties of capitalism: unemployment, crime, drugs, and (of course) encroachments on the sovereignty of small nations. It was an indictment not without substance. Asked whether Albanians do not find it humiliating to be locked away from the outside world by the last barbed wire from Curtain in Europe, he replied: "Suppose the people in the house next to yours fight and take drugs — wouldn't you put up a fence to keep your children away from them?"

Whether or not they are content to have their government think of them as children, Albanians are not cut off from direct knowledge of the outside world. Spindly television aerials bristle along the city skylines, and reach high above the pantiled roofs of single-storey cottages in the villages of the coastal plain. In many cramped dwellings, the television set must be by far the most splendid furnishing in the home. Assembled in Albania from imported parts (paid for in scarce hard currency), each set costs the equivalent of six months' salary for most workers.

The serials reach high to catch the signal from distant Italian, Yugoslav or Greek stations. News, movies, fashion shows, and game shows awarding dazzling consumer goodies as prizes, fit before the eyes of workers on state farms as they sit wearily after a day with the shovel or the hoe.

The regime has chosen to tolerate this people into the outside world and its temptations. Most Albanians must gain a clear perspective on the choice that their rulers have made for them — a choice of stability, conformity and the simple life as against change, pluralism, affluence and risk.

How fully they endorse that choice is hard to guess, when the apparatus of state control is so all-pervasive. But there can be little doubt that they are aware of the issues.

Date with terror in a tacky Brighton Wok

CRAIG BROWN

Following last week's television showing of Graham Greene's Brighton Rock with the young Richard Attenborough playing the psychopathic gangster Pinkie, Mr Greene has agreed to write a follow-up novel set in today's more well-to-do Brighton. A terrifying look at the dinner party bullies who are now terrorizing the city, Brighton Wok is a savage indictment of the social mores of the coastal media gangs. Richard Attenborough again stars as Dickie, the gangleader who visits fear upon a neighbourhood with his invitations to drop by for a really super, super time with some very dear and lovely friends:

Hale knew, before he had been in Brighton three hours, that Dickie planned to ask him to drinkie-poo. The Jacuzzi in the five-star hotel gushed and spewed like an abscess jetting poison through the nerve. The room-service button, an emblem of deep loneliness on an expanse of stippled wall, stared back at him like a one-eyed man who happened to be wearing a stippled suit. The telephone lay silent, dead as the corpse of Joseph of Arimathea, or even deader.

On the floor, the strands of the thick-pile carpet looked like so many lost souls seeking refuge from eternity in the oblivion of the crowd. The remote-control box lay separate from the colour television, a sinner yearning for redemption.

There was a knock on the door. And then another. "For God's sake, no," Hale thought. He recognized the style at once. "When sentences. Get this short," he thought. "You know. Something is about to happen."

Dickie, he knew, was out to get him. But surely he would never find him here? "Blimey ducks, any old iron, lor luvaduck, me old flower." It was the maid, her bosom swelling like two robed priests in genuflexion. Something about the nuance of her speech told Hale that Her Creator had seen to it that she was working class. Hale watched as she straightened the goosedown



CRAIG BROWN

duvet until it lay on the bed like snow on a still-warm grave.

Dickie fingered the Twight. With a single flick of his wrist, he snapped it in two. He felt nothing for it at all. It was like a biscuit in his hands, something to break, to bite, to eat.

He went down the shops. As he passed, people scurried into the open doors of a green-grocer. But they discovered too late that even the biggest subgenuine afforded them no protection. "Daring! You're looking DIVINE. Just ADORED your last movie. You MUST drop round this evening. SUPER! Big kiss!"

Dickie issued compliments with ruthless speed. He only had to open his mouth and you were already invited to a party. A man wasn't able to think up an excuse until it was too late. *Venite adoremus, venite adoremus, venite adoremus,*

"Blimey O'Reilly", "Fancy that", "Down at the old Bull and Bush", "Well I never". The ceaseless hum of ordinary people conversing with one another gave Dickie a strange feeling of something like guilt. He felt in his heart the growling presence of pity. Pity for all those countless million souls who could never — not ever — come to his parties.

A deep melancholy overtook his conscience as he thought of Hale. He must not remain uninvited; but how could it possibly reach him? Above him, swooping and flapping like a surprise on a

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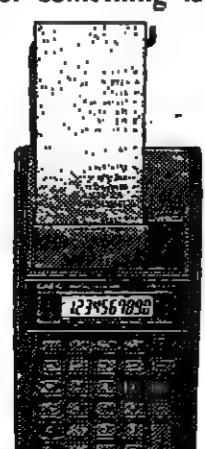
YOU
COULD BE
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Instead of reading this advertisement, you could be doing your sums.

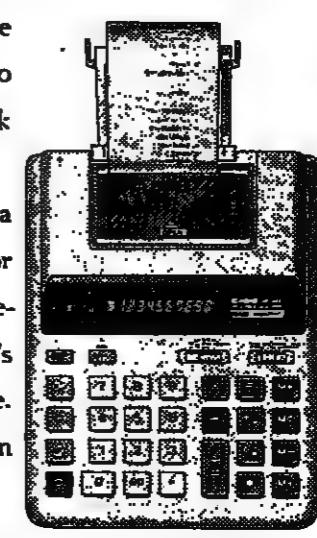
The Casio HR8ABK printing calculator takes up the space shown on the left, but takes portable printing calculators into the 1990's, with a 2 1/4" standard size dual printing roll system as well as a 10 digit LCD display, function command signs and a choice of batteries or mains power.

For those looking for something larger however, Casio offer the HR100 hard key printing calculator featuring percentage function, one touch accumulated totals in four functions, auto mode calculation for addition and subtraction and a convenient answer printing function.



HR8ABK PRICE GUIDE £24.95

And while not recommending you get into the red, the HR100 offers all the functions of the HR100 but with the added plus of two colour printing, black and red.



You'll find there's a Casio printing calculator to fit all your requirements, whether it's size, reliability or price.

They're an addition to any operation.



HR100 PRICE GUIDE £34.95
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CASIO

Price guides correct at time of going to press. A selection of Casio Calculators is available from ARGOS, BOOTS, COMET, DIXONS, HARRODS, JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP, JOHN MENZIES, RYMAN, SELFRIDGES, W.H.SMITH, UNDERWOODS, WILDING OFFICE EQUIPMENT. Also at J & B Beale Limited, Browns Stationers, J. H. Clarke, Geerings, Heffers (Cambridge), Jarrold, K.T.D. (Kendal), K.K. Stationers, Marks and Spencer (Colchester), Mitre, O.M.E., Preedy, S. K. D. Typewriters, Sumita, Takeda, Wagstaff O.E., George Waterston, J. H. Younie & Son and other leading Hi-Fi, photographic and department stores. Some models may not be stocked by all outlets.



TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Gone are the days when Tory candidates were served on a plate to the great and the good. I learn that before his selection as Tory candidate in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election, Christopher Prior had to beat off a large number of apparently more qualified "retreats" with previous Commons' experience in an exhausting procedure that should make the by-election campaign itself a piece of cake. Of the original 240 applicants, the list was whittled down to 20, who were interviewed individually by the selection committee. From that number, four went forward for a further interview with the local executive. Although it is quite usual at this stage for the executive to put only one name before the final adoption meeting, recent unseemly and public rows over shortlists of one clearly ruled out the practice this time. So Prior had to compete against Richard Ottaway, the former MP for Nottingham North, in addressing a meeting of party members and answering questions for half an hour. Before disposing of Ottaway, Prior had also seen off former MPs Warren Hawkesley, Robert Harvey and Roy Galley, all of whom lost their seats in 1987 and must now continue their search elsewhere.

Is Sylvia Heal, Labour's candidate in Mid-Staffordshire, a unilateralist or not? The Tories, I hear, are determined to make the question an issue in the campaign. What is common knowledge is that Mrs Heal is a former member of CND but made a passionate speech at last year's party conference backing Neil Kinnock's switch to a unilateral policy of negotiated and verifiable disarmament. But why, then, did she tell *The Independent* last week "I am still a unilateralist"? Her spokesman tells me it was "a figure of speech used in the context of recent unilateralist remarks made by Gorbachov, George Bush and even Douglas Hurd". The Tories will be working hard to suggest otherwise.

With David Owen in China this week making cooling noises to the regime which brought us Tiananmen Square, rumours persist at Westminster that the one job which would persuade him to give up active politics is the governorship of Hong Kong. Could there be any connection?

I don't wish to alarm my Westminster colleagues, but they should keep their eyes open for signs of infestation by those two highly damaging and unpleasant creatures, *Pimis Tectus* and *Stegobium Paniceum*. Before anyone rings the doctor, I hasten to add that the Australian spider beetle and the bread beetle which hide under these exotic names attack only books. Conservative MP Michael Grylls this week asked Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, to investigate what devastation the creatures may have wreaked on the Commons library. There are no signs yet, he replied, but staff are on the alert.

BARRY FANTONI



"I suppose I will know what I mean, Harry?" is lawfully binding?"

The Nicaraguan revolution will enter a new phase of struggle tonight at Wandsworth Town Hall. At issue will be a specially reserved parking space outside his Putney home for Francisco d'Escoto, Nicaraguan ambassador to London. At a committee meeting last month Tory council leaders argued against the allocation of a free parking space for his official Volvo but lost the vote when two of their own side, feeling that even Marxists were entitled to a privilege extended to every other ambassador in London, joined forces with Labour councillors to approve. As the Tories have an overall majority of one, they could be set for a rare defeat when the matter goes to the full council meeting.

After Commons secretaries were polled recently on the best dressed MP (winner Julian Critchley), they are now being invited to vote on Britain's healthiest politician. The stunt is sponsored by the California Prune Board which has designated for later this month a "National Prune Week". Paddy Ashdown, a former Royal Marine, is believed to be fancying his chances; no money is going on the paunchy, cigarette-smoking Health Secretary, Kenneth Clarke.

On no! A tiny crack has appeared in my schedule, so I'm clambering through it and going away. This is a mistake. Not a tiny crack of a mistake, but a huge canyon of a mistake. Every single meeting I might have needed over the coming four years has been stuck in next week's diary as revenge.

I am only going for six days. Nevertheless, my dentist is being squeezed in, and the accountants want to present accounts. I must travel by train the length and breadth of Britain for a day on behalf of Comic Relief. Come on! Something must be done about the homeless before it's too late and they all find homes.

Stick it in the diary. Oh, and *Time Out* wants a new photograph of me. The last one must have fallen off their dashboard. *Arena* is making an in-depth documentary on Frankie Howerd and wants to discuss the nature of

During Douglas Hurd's four years as Home Secretary a determined effort was made to change the direction of a penal system which had become over-dependent on prison sentences. As the prison population climbed up and up, steadily outrunning the new places provided by the largest prison building programme this century, spilling over into the use of police cells to hold remand prisoners, the need for a new initiative became increasingly urgent.

The answer was not hard to find, since the pressure on the prisons, the high cost, and the squalor resulting from overcrowding would all be diminished by sending fewer people to jail. The real problem lay in surmounting two formidable blocks: the fact that convicted offenders are sentenced by an independent judiciary not subject to ministerial direction and that public opinion, as reflected in Parliament, the Conservative Party and the Press, would be suspicious of anything smacking of going soft on crime.

Yesterday's White Paper, the fruit of two years' preparation, contains at its heart the idea of punishment in the community, a policy developed after much consultation based on the propo-

sition that for those convicted of less serious offences, punishment can be served elsewhere than in prison. Some of the components involve restraints on liberty or freedom of movement; others are designed to provide recompense to victims or reparation for the wrong done; but each is calculated to lead to a greater protection of the public by reducing the likelihood of further offending.

This is where prison is at its least effective. Not only is it enormously expensive and degrading to human dignity, but individual responsibility is eroded. Prisoners are not required to face up to the consequences of their actions, nor to compensate the victims. It is hardly surprising that despite the best efforts of the staff, most prisons are breeding grounds for further criminality, with a depressingly high proportion of inmates returning within a year or two of their release.

The White Paper has moved

away from the earlier suggestion of a new supervision and restriction order in favour of transforming probation orders into sentences of the court (currently they are used "instead of sentencing") with which means-related fines or community-based penalties can be combined. In various forms these include compensation to victims, supervised tasks of service to the community, residence at a hostel or other approved place, prescribed activities at a day centre, or elsewhere, tracking an offender's whereabouts by constant contact, and staying away from places such as football grounds or public houses where previous offences have been committed.

With an offender's consent, a probation order may include a condition of treatment for substance abuse. Assisted by social inquiry reports, the courts will choose packages tailored to the circumstances of each individual offender. More demanding

supervision by the probation service will be required than at present.

The Government has got round the awkward corner of electronic tagging with some skill. Curfew orders, confining people to their homes at certain times, depend on electronic monitoring. Although the current experiments may well make the practice of tagging irrelevant, ministers have circumvented the rooted opposition of probation officers by proposing that the courts should have power to make curfew orders either as a condition of bail or as a penalty following conviction. These would be separate from the other orders, although they could run concurrently, and so could be supervised by an agency apart from the probation service.

Taken as a whole, the White Paper is to be welcomed as maintaining the thrust of punishment in the community, potentially a historic turning

point in penal policy, taking it forward in a way that is capable of attracting support from sentencees and the wider public.

The sensible and timely reforms recommended by Lord Carlisle's committee on the working of parole in England and Wales (Scotland had its own review) are generally accepted, although there is some tinkering with the threshold beyond which a selective parole system would operate. There is also a significant reservation whereby the Home Secretary would retain the final say on the release on licence of all prisoners sentenced to seven years or more. For presentational purposes the tone of this part of the White Paper seems keen to categorize the Carlisle recommendations as consistent with the tougher, rather than the constructive, of the two approaches which signify the Government's twin-track policy on crime. More neutral wording would have been closer to the spirit of a notable report.

The iron hand in the velvet glove shows most clearly in the unexpected proposal allowing the crown courts to give custodial sentences longer than would be justified by the circumstances of the offence to persistent violent and sexual offenders if this is considered necessary to protect the public.

Although evidently intended as a make-weight for the extension of statutory restrictions on the use of custody and the reduction of maximum sentences for theft and non-domestic burglary, the idea of "topping up" sentences is likely to prove controversial. If the maximum penalties are regarded as being too low, Parliament should be invited to increase them. Where aggravating factors mark the most serious incidents, the courts will sentence near the maximum, subject to appeal by either side. Adding a surcharge, in order to keep persistent offenders in custody for longer than their crime warrants, harks back to the days of preventative detention, and is out of step with the "just deserts" (or retributive) theme declared at the start of the White Paper.

Lord Windlesham, Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, is a former chairman of the Parole Board.

Peter Stothard

Alien finger on the pulse

Washington

Richard Wirthlin is a devout Mormon and a friend of Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman. His Wirthlin Group, whose client list includes Quaker Oats and General Motors, as well as Reagan and the Republican Party, is one of America's top companies in the business of reading the public mind.

The group is now getting to know a new client: Mrs Thatcher. Just before Christmas, in a series of otherwise routine personal announcements, Baker appointed Dr Wirthlin as a part-time adviser to the Conservative Party. His "vast experience in the field of polling and opinion research" could be invaluable, ran the press release.

Wirthlin is, indeed, a remarkable catch. For two decades he spent millions of hard-raised Republican dollars on providing Reagan with the most sophisticated political listening post in the world. Every month his team in Utah telephoned thousands of Americans to ask their views of White House policy. Each survey generated hundreds of computerized charts and tables.

The vast scale of the operation was a closely guarded secret. Some of the results, particularly details of extensive work on Mrs Reagan, were shown only to the President himself. Other studies were kept to a close circle and used to undermine outsiders.

The moderate James Baker, then Secretary of the Treasury, made great use of the work in his struggle with the hardline Alexander Haig, Reagan's Secretary of State. The studies on the Soviet threat and tax cuts were of immense use to Reagan in appealing to the people over the heads of Congress.

In addition to traditional polling, Wirthlin explored the public psyche by wiring up selected audiences for speeches and political broadcasts; the performing politician then watched his effort on a video recorder, his image superimposed by a graph showing the response to his "power phrases". Patriotism: up. Tax reform: down. And so on.

Wirthlin is about to bring his well-tried weaponry to Britain. He lists the skills of his company in his current brochure as "launching new products or repositioning existing ones", "resolving public affairs crises" and "winning elective office". Kenneth Baker's job could hardly be better defined.

The inner circles of British Conservative politics are, however, not easy for the outsider to penetrate; its paths no less snake-infested than those of the White House. "When Richard Wirthlin speaks, I listen," Reagan once said. The two men enjoyed milk-and-biscuit sessions overlooking the Pacific Ocean. How he will get on over scotch and water in Downing Street is the subject of jealous speculation.

Senior ministers who survived the back-stabbing quarrels between rival advertising agents and pollsters before the last

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's man, thinks the education crisis is "over". Mr John MacGregor, the Department of Education's Senior Chief Executive, believes it is "over".

The Western allies' introduction of the currency is a success. The currency counteracted inflation.

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1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

The Government's White Paper on *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public* represents a fundamental shift in the way offenders are dealt with in England and Wales. It embodies the belief that "punishment can effectively denounce criminal behaviour and exact retribution for it". From this flows the concept of just deserts, a new legislative framework for sentencing, based on the seriousness of the offence.

Until now, the emphasis has been very different. The White Paper will modify a philosophy which has its roots in the 19th century, or even earlier, and which has emphasized the importance of apportioning penalties not according to the offence but according to the offender. This provided fertile soil for the basic reforming aims of the prison service and client-oriented approach of probation officers.

The White Paper rightly proposes new powers for the Crown Court to impose longer sentences for violent and sexual offences. But the Government intends that non-violent offenders should be punished in the community by tough and demanding non-custodial sentences. The curfew would be one of them, but it would not need to stop them from working. If electronic monitoring worked properly it would "overcome most difficulties about enforcing curfew orders."

The tough treatment extends to feckless parents who will be brought to heel by courts in dealing with young people. Courts will have to take account of parents' means in requiring them to pay fines for their children; and courts will have to consider binding parents over to require them to take proper care and control of their children. It is, of course, right to hope that parents will bring up their children well and take responsibility for them, but there are doubts whether requirement penalizing those who do not will have the success it deserves.

A more clear-cut application of the principle of just deserts is in proposals to match fines to means. If the Government does decide to introduce such a system, it would avoid the injustice of poor offenders being hit harder than rich for similar offences.

DR KOHL'S BOMBSHELL

The Foreign Secretary endorsed German unification in Bonn yesterday, in a speech which emphasized the need for "reasonable periods of transition". The contrast between Mr Hurd's cautious tone and the heady pace of German domestic politics was underlined only a few hours later when the West German Chancellor announced that his Government is to open "immediate negotiations" with East Germany on a currency union coupled with economic reforms.

The Chancellor, supported by both his finance and economic ministers, now sees the introduction of the Deutschmark as a "parallel currency" in East Germany as the quickest way to help the East German economy and to stem the exodus to the West of "refugees". Today, the West German Cabinet will meet to draw up a schedule for unification in every sphere except defence.

The decision illustrates the degree to which political pressures in both Germanies are forcing aside councils of prudence at home and abroad. The Chancellor has put the Government on collision course with Dr Karl Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, West Germany's independent central bank.

Dr Pöhl believes it to be "an illusion" that any of East Germany's problems would be solved either by full-blown monetary union or by the "parallel currency" formula. Yesterday morning he and his East German counterpart emerged from a meeting in East Berlin agreeing that the idea was "fantastic": a dismissal not to be taken lightly, since the Bundesbank would have to administer the scheme. In the view of both central bankers, the priorities for East Germany are tax, banking and far-reaching economic reforms.

The currency issue is profoundly emotive. The Western allies' introduction of a common currency countered by the Soviet Union's

The belief that more offenders can be treated in the community by a more imaginative use of fines and by other penalties providing some restriction of liberty reflects a wish, held by all recent governments, to reduce the prison population. Overcrowding, with an ever-present possibility of disturbance, has long been an ominous backdrop to policy making.

The weakness of changes to the parole system proposed in the White Paper is that with prisoners serving at least half of their sentence, they would be likely to increase the prison population.

The aim of the parole proposals is the admirable one of ensuring that the time spent in custody should be closer to the sentence ordered by the courts, so restoring greater credibility to them. Given the range of punishments in the community to be made available, the Government must hope courts will use them with the effect of further reducing the prison population, which has already fallen by 2,542 in the last year to 46,557.

The White Paper wisely sees no need for a much canvassed Sentencing Council to develop sentencing policies or guidance. Though innocuous sounding, any influence that might threaten the independence of the judiciary, a safeguard of basic freedoms, is potentially dangerous.

The Government's package has more of an Old Testament flavour than a New. Yet it is not a liking for retribution nor the penalizing of parents which has reduced dramatically the number of juveniles aged under 17 given custodial sentences — a fall of more than 50 per cent since 1981. That has more to do with well-devised alternative treatment in the community and tighter statutory restrictions governing the use of custody.

The Government's proposals provide a new sense of purpose to the penal system. But if the pendulum of penological fashion is not to swing too fast and too far, it would also be wise not to neglect too much the emphasis on the offender which has provided a sense of reforming moral purpose in the last 100 or more years.

Education values and targets

From Professor A. C. Renfrew, FBA, and others

Sir, That the regular part of the British Army will be reduced in size now seems certain. There are among others four things that those in charge should try to bring about. They are:

1. The creation of a Territorial Army (if necessary using disbanded regular regiments) so excellent that everyone will want to belong to it and there will be waiting lists. With a large regular cadre, at least squadron/company strength, for each battalion-sized unit, first class equipment (from disbanded regular units), exciting training, particularly overseas, and a world-wide emergency role — it could become a Reserve to be reckoned with.

2. The regular Army, whether at home or overseas, must acquire a flexibility of capability and role (this means equipment too) that will allow all regiments — whether armoured, artillery, engineer, infantry, transport etc — to go anywhere and do anything in cooperation with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force to fulfil roles of peacekeeping, UN duties, disaster aid, internal security.

3. Training of the regular Army (and reserves) must be so exciting and demanding that it beats anything yet thought of by John Blashford-Snell or Tim Severin, and when possible must involve helping with problems of environment and natural disaster.

4. Those places overseas where we still have responsibilities — Hong Kong, Brunei, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Belize, the Falklands, etc. — must to those countries' benefit as well as ours, be utilized to the utmost. And all Commonwealth countries must be offered training assistance in return for training and exchange facilities.

First, may I suggest that we should remember that we have always made our way in the world by our astute and almost intuitive manipulation of balances of power. With the probable break-up of the present security framework we shall again need well balanced general-purpose forces that are sought by potential allies — and feared by opponents — not for their size but for the impact they can make upon future balances of power.

Secondly, and as far as the Army is concerned, it would pay us to look back for ideas to General Hans von Seeckt's organisation of the German 100,000-strong army of the 1920s, from which the Wehrmacht sprang so quickly and efficiently in the early 1930s.

We cannot foretell when we will need a large army again, but it is worth recalling that Napoleon, Stalin, and Hitler came to power in the wake of popular disillusion with the fruits of revolution. We need a von Seeckt-style of army as the basis for future expansion.

And thirdly, and above all, we must avoid the precedent of our own dark days of the 1920s when the Treasury-inspired "10-year rule" — the assumption that there would be no major war for 10 years — left us almost defenceless while von Seeckt's 100,000 became the Wehrmacht.

Yours faithfully,
BILL JACKSON,
West Stowell,
Marlborough, Wiltshire.
February 3.

From Dr V. Jones
Sir, It is gratifying to learn (report, January 26) that the secretary of state for education has finally agreed that the National Curriculum as presently constituted does pose a threat to classics (and all other minority subjects) and that he is willing to endorse the principle of flexibility within the National Curriculum structure. Minus the room for manoeuvre it is, I think, principles are important.

We must now work to establish a second principle: that attainment in a subject does not depend upon a particular curriculum structure. If the secretary of state can be persuaded to concentrate on what children should attain in any subject, not when and how they should attain it, he stands a chance of developing a system which can both deliver high standards and remain true to Tory principles of freedom and choice.

It is a big fence for him to jump: perhaps Mrs Thatcher, with her robust common sense, can help him over it.

Yours etc,
PETER V. JONES,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Department of Classics,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.
January 26.

Child witnesses

From Professor G. M. Davies

Sir, Alex Sutherland paints an over-pessimistic picture of the competence of child witnesses (Wednesday Page, January 31). After the initial difficulties she describes, the video-link is now being used in 14 centres throughout England and Wales and is to be extended to another seven to provide a comprehensive geographical coverage. An analysis of the first 106 cases to come before the courts showed that the accused chose to plead guilty prior to the start of trial on 42 per cent of occasions, graphic evidence of the truth of the young witness' allegations.

Video-links, however, can do little for those below seven years whose evidence is currently excluded from the courtroom. Only the admission of taped evidence will enable them to testify. The legitimate concern for the defendant can be accommodated by the proposal of the Pigot committee for a second taped interview to be admitted, at which the defence could put searching questions to the child.

Children, like adults, can tell the truth. However, such occasional failings — unlike those of adults — are taken as an excuse for excluding children from the judicial system, rather than leaving the decision to the jury. This cannot be right.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM DAVIES,
Leicester University,
Department of Psychology,
Leicester LE1 7RH.
February 1.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 6: The Duchess of York, Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, this morning received the Director (Mr Peter Cardy) and members of the Research Advisory Panel at Buckingham Palace.

The Prince Edward arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning from Sydney, Australia.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer and Mr Geoffrey Crawford were in attendance.

This morning The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, opened the Better Made in Britain "Challenge Day" at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London SW1.

In the afternoon Her Royal Highness attended the Wai tang Day Service at Westminster Abbey.

Afterwards The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, visited the Vietnamese Refugee Children Project at 26 Hansar Grove, East Molesey and 113 Queen's Road, Teddington, Middlesex.

Her Royal Highness then attended a Reception at Hampton Court House, The Green, East Molesey.

In the evening The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, attended a Reception and Awards Dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, London W2.

Mrs Andrew Fielden was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 6: The Prince of Wales gave a lecture on the Rain forests, at Kew Gardens, co-hosted by the Royal Botanic

Dinners

Royal Society of St George
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster attended a dinner given by the Royal Society of St George at Dartmouth House last night to mark the anniversary of the Accession of The Queen patron of the society. Mr John Minshull-Fogg, chairman, presided. The Lord Mayor, Major-General Christopher Tyler, Resident Governor and Keeper of the Jewel House, HM Tower of London, Sir Colin Cole, Carter Principal King of Arms, and the Rev Basil Watson also spoke. Among others present were

Lord Cole, Mrs Minshull-Fogg, the Director-General of the Exports and Imports Union and Mrs Hilda, Mrs Tyler-Trotter, Mrs Michael Caine, Professor William Jevons, Professor Stephen Hawking, Mr John Major, Mr Tony Blair, Mr Tony Benn, Dr W. R. D. Blackett, Mr Alan Coopers and Major C. O'Leary.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Saint Thomas More, humanist and statesman, chancellor 1520-32, London, 1478; Philippe Buache, geographer, Paris, 1700; Charles Dickens, Portsmouth, 1812; Sir William Huggins, astronomer, London, 1824; Sinclair Lewis, novelist, Nobel laureate 1930, Saku Centre, Minnesota, 1885.

DEATHS: James Stewart, 2nd Earl of Moray (the 'bonny earl'), murdered, Dumbartonshire, 1592; William Boyce, organist and composer, London, 1779; Ann Radcliffe, novelist, London, 1823; Henry Neele, poet, committed suicide, London, 1828; Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, novelist, Dublin, 1873; Adolph Sax, inventor of the saxophone, Paris, 1894; Daniel Francois Malan, prime minister of South Africa 1948-54, Stellenbosch, Cape Colony, 1959.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr John Michael Wright, QC, to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

Jean Caines to be Director of Information, Department of Trade and Industry, in succession to Adrian Moore, who has moved to a similar post at the Home Office.

Mr L.A. Pavitt

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Laurence Anstiss Pavitt will be held at noon, on Thursday, February 15, 1990, in St Margaret's Church, Westminster. All are welcome.

Gardens and the Friends of the Earth Trust.

Commander Richard Aylard, RN, and Mr Philip Mackie were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales visited the Oxford Regional Alcoholism Unit at the Warneford Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

Subsequently Her Royal Highness visited the Oxford Mortuary Office and Shop at 274 Banbury Road, Oxford.

Afterwards The Princess of Wales visited the Townsend House Old People's Home, Headington, Oxford.

Finally Her Royal Highness, Patron, Relate National Marriage Guidance, visited the Charity's Oxford Offices at 33 Ifley Road, Oxford.

The Princess of Wales was received by Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Heywood-Lonsdale (Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire).

Miss Alexandra Loyd and Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Jephson, RN, were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 6: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present at a dinner given by His Excellency the Ambassador of Nepal (Major General Bhairam Keshar Simha) and Madame Bhairam Keshar Simha in honour of The Crown Prince of Nepal at 12A Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

YORK HOUSE

February 6: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this evening gave a Reception at York House for Members of the Committee of the Opportunity Japan Campaign.

Mrs Andrew Palmer was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 6: The Prince of Wales gave a lecture on the Rain forests, at Kew Gardens, co-hosted by the Royal Botanic

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as President of the Prince's Trust, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, will attend a charity premiere of *Steel Magnolias* at the Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square, at 8.00 in aid of the trust.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the Natural History Museum, will open the museum's activity centre at 11.00.

The Prince Royal, as Commandant-in-Chief of the St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, will attend a reception for Grand Prior Cadets at Buckingham Palace at 6.00, and, as Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists, will attend a reception and concert in aid of the college at the Banqueting House at 8.00.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of the British Consultants Bureau, will open the Disaster Relief and Mitigation Conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre at 9.25.

The Duke of Kent will attend the annual dinner of the British Industrial Biological Research Association at the Royal College of Physicians at 6.20.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the International Social Service of Great Britain, will attend a planning meeting for the Spring Fair at Lancaster House at 10.30.

Luncheons

Lord Mellish was host at a luncheon of the House of Lords All-Party Building Industry Group held yesterday at the House of Lords. Mr Robert G. Smith, President of the London region of the Building Employers Confederation, and Mr John Parsons, Chairman of the BEC Economic and Public Affairs Group, were the speakers.

English-Speaking Union

Mr David Hicks, Director-General of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, and Mrs Valerie Mitchell, deputy director-general, received the guests at a literary luncheon yesterday at Dartmouth House. Dr Dennis Haycock, MP, was the guest of honour and speaker. Mr Michael Rees, MP, governor, presided and the director general also spoke.

Service dinner

Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, attended a dinner last night at the Naval and Military Club to mark the 225th anniversary (February 4) of the founding of the Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785. Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt, chairman of the club, presided. Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, First Sea Lord, other members of the Admiralty Board and Captain Peter Panahane, retiring secretary, were present.

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SCIENCE REPORT

Putting competitors in the shade

For many plants, the ability to stay in the sunlit despite the encroachment of neighbouring plants can make the difference between life and death.

In competition for light, those seedlings which put most of their effort into shooting upwards, outgrowing their rivals, are often the only ones to survive.

But how can a plant know when its nearest neighbour is getting too close for comfort? A report in the January 19 issue of *Science* (vol 247, pp 329-331) shows that seedlings can respond to the presence of neighbours even before they begin to be.

Carlos Balbáre, and a team of ecologists from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, grew seedlings of white mustard (*Sinapis alba*) and *Datura ferox*, one of the nightshade family, varying the density of plants from one plot to another to make the competition for light more or less severe.

The more crowded the plots, the taller seedlings from both species grew, suggesting that something indicated to the plants that competitors were close by, and encouraged faster growth.

The researchers suspected that a molecule called phytochrome was involved in the rapid stem-lengthening response. Phytochrome, blue-green pigment, regulates many plant responses to light, and is sensitive to the ratio of red light to "far-red" light, which has a slightly longer wavelength. The reflected light from plants contains a greater fraction of far-red than direct sunlight, so the Argentinian team wondered if the seedlings were taking their growth cues from the intensity of far-red light reflected from their neighbours.

To reduce the far-red light reaching the seedlings' stems, transparent flasks were placed around a stem section on some seedlings, and filled with either blue copper sulphate solution, which filtered out much of the far-red light, or water. As the researchers had expected, plants surrounded by the far-red filtering solution responded much less strongly to the presence of neighbours.

But the simplicity and elegance of their experiments persuades the researchers that differences in the effectiveness of plants' far-red sensing "early warning systems" may be the main reason why some plants are able to get a head start and put their competitors in the shade.

OBITUARIES

JOHN MERIVALE

Bringing poise and elegance to stage and screen roles



The actor John ("Jack") Merivale died in hospital yesterday, at the age of 72, of pneumonia, following a long illness brought about by hereditary renal failure.

The son of the actor Philip Merivale and the actress Viva Birkett, he was born on December 1, 1917, and educated at Rugby and New College, Oxford.

Like his father, he came of a now rapidly vanishing line of gentlemen actors, much in demand on both sides of the Atlantic, to bring elegance and style to drawing-room comedies and classic revivals, often dominated by strong leading ladies such as his own stepmother Dame Gladys Cooper.

Merivale trained at the Old Vic School and then served throughout the war in both the RAF and the Royal Canadian Air Force as a pilot with the 6th squadron.

In 1941 he married the actress Jan Sterling and made much of his early career in the United States, appearing in the Laurence Olivier-Vivien Leigh production of *Romeo and Juliet*, which ran briefly on Broadway in 1940, as well as such later and more successful New York stagings as the Cecil Beaton production of *Lady Windermere's Fan* in 1946, and the Rex Harrison *Anne of a Thousand Days* in 1948.

After his divorce from Jan Sterling in that year, Merivale returned to England, appearing in such long-running West End comedies as *William Douglas-Home's The Reluctant Debutante* (with Anna Massey) while also making a name for himself on screen, often as an officer and gentle-

man of remarkably stiff upper lip in such films as *King Rat*, *Arabesque* and *The List of Adrian Messenger*.

In *A Night to Remember* he gave one of his most memorable performances as the husband who goes down with the *Titanic*, having seen his family safely into the lifeboats.

At the time of her separa-

tion and divorce from Laurence Olivier, Merivale began to live with Vivien Leigh, and spent the last ten years of her life frequently sacrificing his own career in order to protect the actress not only from her own worst instincts, but also from an outside world which to her had often begun to seem

impossible. Together they played in London and on a world tour in *Duel of Angels* (1958) and in John Gielgud's Broadway staging of *Ivanov* (1965). It was Merivale who discovered Leigh's body when returning one night from a stage appearance in Guildford in 1967.

Two years later, while again appearing at the theatre in Guildford, Merivale was to meet the third actress in his life and the one who was to devote herself to him during his long later illness in precisely the same self-sacrificial way that he had devoted himself to Vivien Leigh. Diana Sheridan.

He married her on May 29, 1986, but they had already been together for almost 20 years following her divorce from Sir John Davis of the Rank Organisation, and although Merivale's increasing physical fragility meant that they were all too seldom able to work together in public, they remained in private the most devoted and constant of couples.

Jack, as he was always known, to a hugely extended family of stepchildren, friends and other relatives, was one of those men who exemplified the notion of grace under pressure, the pressure in his case being that of a painful and debilitating illness which had killed his father at 59, and for which he knew there was still no real cure despite the best medical attention in the world.

As Robert Morley, himself a distant relative by marriage, said last night, "The great thing about Jack was that in an evening of flying a kite or of correcting an etymology when a colleague suggested a more convincing alternative,

The analysis of the elements

PROFESSOR JOHN DODGSON

Fresh light on the etymology of English place-names

The death of John Dodgson, at the age of 61, has robbed English place-name studies of one of its elder statesmen and one of its most outstanding scholars. In particular, the publication of his pioneering research on Anglo-Saxon place-names, in the 1960s, shed new light on the dating and status of such names, and challenged what had, to that point, been orthodoxy in such

It is a matter for deep regret that Dodgson never completed the final volume, in which he could have both expected to draw together the evidence he had found, throwing light on local dialect, local history, historical geography and various aspects of the history of the language. But, these six volumes stand as a memorial to his scholarship: for which he was justly rewarded with the title of Professor.

At the same time Dodgson was one of a small group of scholars who took part in what is known in etymological circles as the "middle-aged" revolution (in that its protagonists were mature scholars, not "Young Turks" anxious to take issue with their elders as a matter of course). Nevertheless they did challenge assumptions about place-name chronology, which they had inherited from their ancestors.

Dodgson's decisive contribution is to be seen in the lengthy papers: "The Significance of the Distribution of English Place-Names in South-east England" (*Medieval Archaeology*, 1966), together with "Various forms of Old English -ing in English Place-Names" and "The -ing in English Place-Names like Birmingham and Altrincham" (*Beiträge zur Namenforschung*, Heidelberg, 1967 and 1968).

The first was the most influential. There Dodgson suggested that such names belonged not to the invasion phase of Anglo-Saxon settlement (5th-6th century) but rather to a later colonizing phase (late 6th-7th century). In 1966 this was a daring piece, challenging accepted wisdom, and he followed it by an article on how place-names in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, which made equally thought-provoking suggestions.

Dodgson was not challenging the etymology of the place-names in question, rather the significance and status of the names. In this he was a small and brave band of pioneers.

As a lecturer Dodgson was witty, fluent and enthusiastic. Nor should the BBC television programme of the 1970s (recently repeated) be forgotten, with its enduring images of John Dodgson and a group of researchers tracing the bounds of an Anglo-Saxon charter through the streets of London.

He leaves his widow, Joyce, a son and a daughter.

The Novak sisters, Jane (left) and Eva

and their son, Alexander.

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He leaves his widow,

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

God's divine power has given us everything we have, a truly remarkable knowledge of love through our knowledge of death in his own story and goodness. 2 Peter 1: 3

BIRTHS

ANDRESON-MAIR - On January 26th 1990, at the Convent of the Maye, Versailles, France, to Pascal (de) Chagnon, and Laurence, Zelia Marie Elise.

SECKER - On Friday 3rd at 10.30 am, at St Paul's, to Sandy and Michael, a daughter, Jessica Sophie.

SHAW-THOMPSON - On Sunday 28th January 1990, at the Harwich Maternity Unit, to Sandy and Michael, a son, James Andrew.

GILLESPIE-SMITH - On Sunday 28th January 1990, at the Ambulance Men and Women of Lincoln, c/o Jane Morris, Ambulance Station, Lincoln.

BODDIE - On February 8th 1990, at home after a long illness, Brian Boddie, wife, courage and example Diane Rawson, aged 68 years.

WALLACE - Beloved wife, Barbara, a devoted grandmother of Alan, and Barnaby.

COLLINS-WOOD - On February 4th, at The Portland Hospital, to Russell and Kimberly, a daughter.

GARNER - On Sunday February 4th, at The Portland Hospital, to David, a son, Thomas David, and John, a son, Thomas David.

DICKINSON - On Thursday 3rd 1990, at Queen Charlotte's, to Jerry and Alan, twin sons, Linda and Amy.

GALLAGHER - On Saturday 3rd February 1990, at the Ambulance Men and Women of Lincoln, c/o Jane Morris, Ambulance Station, Lincoln.

BOODIE - On February 8th 1990, at home after a long illness, Brian Boddie, wife, courage and example Diane Rawson, aged 68 years.

WILLIAMS - On February 8th 1990, at Princess Alice Great Hospital, to David, beloved wife, Barbara, a devoted grandmother of Alan, and Barnaby.

WELLS - On Monday February 12th, flowers only.

DUANE - On Tuesday February 13th, flowers only.

MATTHEWS - On Wednesday February 14th, flowers only.

WITZKE - On Friday February 16th, flowers only.

Unhappy families on camera

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Something very curious is happening to American television documentaries. They are now so glossy, and the participants so determined to give Emmy-winning performances, that they are becoming indistinguishable from such middle-drama as *thirtysomething*.

Last night's *Judie Castody* (Channel 4) would have made a perfect episode in one of the new, caring familial series. It followed three divorced couples who have decided that for themselves and possibly even their children, it makes more sense to divide responsibilities evenly, rather than one parent having prime charge and only shunting the kids off to the other for alternate weekends.

There is, as our father noted, a limit to the number of times you can take offspring to Disneyland. Better to have them for a week at a time, even if the logistics of school and career become far more complicated.

It would be uncharitable to suggest that if you were a child of these particular parents you might anyway wish to opt for the nearest orphanage, although what sort of effect a totally split two-home childhood will have on them in later life could not be explored. The idea itself having only been around for half an hour or so.

"Caring Parenting" sounds like something out of a parody of American domestic life, and I especially enjoyed the father trying to convince a recalcitrant daughter that she was going to have "special time" with her babysitter. There is something bleakly funny about people deciding that whatever they are doing at the time is better for the kids. All that can be said for the new system, thus far, is that it appears to be producing children already auditioning for minor roles in a Woody Allen movie about parental guilt and anxiety.

Earlier, the feminist series *Ordinary People* (also on Channel 4) had some chilling statistics. Eight out of 2,010 paintings in the National Gallery are by women while of 435 plays produced by the National Theatre, only 10 had female authors. There were also some angry interviews with writers such as Jill Hyem trying to work for male producers who are convinced they know more than she does about how women behave without men. But the series is looking like radio with perhaps not a television programme.

Yorkshire's *First Tuesday* ended an award-winning sixth year with *Disaster at Hillsborough*, an immensely careful study of the country's worst-ever football disaster. It was unlucky for them that both *World in Action* and BBC 1's *Public Eye* jumped the gun last week with instant re-actions to the Taylor report, but this one had been almost a year in the making, and is likely to prove definitive.

Finally, *Looking After Number One* (BBC 2) was a very impressive screenplay first, not only for the writer, Ben Rostal, but also for the director, Simon Cellier Jones, who brought a 30-minute drama in for less than £10,000.

Armistead Maupin, creator of the newly-completed sequence of novels *Tales of the City*, talks to Jasper Rees

Stories on the never-never

Armistead Maupin is a curiosity. Only one in umpteen of his thousands of readers can correctly pronounce his name.

Asked to put the ignorant on to the right phonetic path, he enunciates the word "Maupin" with a subdued South Carolina drawl.

But he is a curiosity for another reason.

The *Tales of the City* novel sequence, which began in 1976, and concludes with *Sure of You*, published in Britain this week, has revived the art of creating a plot in instalments. "I'd love to say that it was entirely intentional," he says, "but I think it was as big a surprise to me as it was to the other writers."

The stories started as a daily series of episodic sketches in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which used fictional characters to examine the topical quirks of San Francisco life, especially gay life. Thus they did very well, "but as I began to run out of material – it's an interesting town but not that interesting – I had to find ways in which the characters could interact. The plot [which, like its successors, is fit with checkily choreographed coincidences] bloomed out of that."

The single thread which connects the five main characters is that they live under the same roof on a hill overlooking the city. Sexually they have nothing in common. Earnest Mary Ann and lovable Michael prefer men; macho Brian and aggressive Mona prefer women; and, for reasons which emerge in *More Tales*, their landlady Mrs Madrigal fits in somewhere between the four of them.

"What I had missed in fiction up to that point was something that would validate the life of a gay person," says their creator. "The great irony was that the senior columnist at the *Chronicle* was a homophobe old Irishman who had affection for me but no patience whatsoever for my homosexuality."

"I was supposed to submit six weeks' worth of columns to the newspaper before they would accept, so I deliberately waited until the series had gained a foothold before introducing the gay and lesbian characters. As it happened, when Michael was threatened with a fatal illness, people responded as if he were one of their own children."

For several years, Maupin's addicted readership remained strictly regional. "Because they were published in paperback, they were from California, I was out of the closet and some of the characters were gay, the *Tales* had 'cull' written all over them as far as the New York establishment was concerned."

So the news about Maupin spread by

Alasdair Cameron

Tally's Blood

Traverse, Edinburgh

Jane di Mambro's *Tally's* is impossible to dislike.

After a gestureless, written from the heart, it brings an unseasonal breath of Italy to a chilly Edinburgh. It is the story of an Italian family in Scotland, their lives, loves, trials and tears. It is certainly not the kind of play we expect at the Traverse Seeing the play there is like finding a Catherine Cookson novel on Martin Amis's bookshelf.

Tally's is played by the excellent Blythe Duff, has been brought up by Aunt Rosinella and Uncle Massimo in a chip shop, *Tally's* (as in 'Tallians'), somewhere in Scotland, anywhere in Scotland to judge from the variety of accents. She grows up with Hughie Devlin – right religion, wrong

ethnic minority – who comes to love her. When she is sent back to her real father in Italy, he follows, and when he is forbidden to marry her, they elope and spend the night together up a tree. This is the custom of the country, which ensures they will be married.

The first half is much the more sombre and is almost a play in itself. The family comes to terms with abortion, death, the hostility of their neighbours and an internment. Act II, however, verges peripherally on sitcom, as Scottish Tallies meet the real (Italian) thing with attendant language jokes and no sense of real danger.

Tally's Blood is an Iago-Scotish version of *The Steamin'*. It is given an immaculate production by Ian Brown, an effective all-purpose cast setting by Ian MacNeil and evocative music by Richard Sisson. Anne Downie's performance, as Aunt Rosinella, is so good that it threatens to overwhelm the play. Accent, emotional power, brooding stage presence: Downie has them all and she relishes every moment. It is a pity that the end seems such a cop-out.

Tally's Blood is going out on an extensive tour. But compared with Marcella Evaristi's *Commedia*, a much harsher look at the stultifying nature of Scottish-Italian families and the overwhelming pressures to conform, the play is a trifle – or *tappa Inglese*.

Lucia, played by the excellent Blythe Duff, has been brought up by Aunt Rosinella and Uncle Massimo in a chip shop, *Tally's* (as in 'Tallians'), somewhere in Scotland, anywhere in Scotland to judge from the variety of accents. She grows up with Hughie Devlin – right religion, wrong



Armistead Maupin: "I'm ready to talk in other voices" after 15 years of these characters

word of mouth. "It makes me very happy to know that, because it is much easier to be secure in that kind of fame than one which is bestowed on you overnight by a literary establishment. You are painfully aware that they could take it away at any moment."

Though Christopher Isherwood encouraged him early on, Maupin says he prefers the company of actors to that of writers. "And painters – especially this

one", says, indicating the studio in which the interview is being conducted. It is the Kensington base of David Hockney. Maupin is borrowing it for the week while he promotes *Sure of You*, the sixth and last of the *Tales of the City* sequence.

It is Hockney's portrait of Maupin which adorns the cover of Chatto & Windus's omnibus edition of the first three *Tales*. "He is doing a whole series of portraits like that of his

friends," says Maupin. "Without wanting to interpret his work for him, I think it has a lot to do with him having lost so many friends to Aids recently."

Michael's illness in *More Tales* is not AIDS, but as the second half of the sequence moves into the 1980s, the virus casts an increasingly lengthy shadow. By the beginning of *Sure of You*, Michael has been diagnosed HIV-positive; there is a scene in which he covers a lesion on his leg and waits to find out from a doctor if it is what he thinks it is.

"I hesitated about including that episode in the novel," Maupin explains, "because I thought people might accuse me of being unnecessarily melodramatic, but it happened to my lover and I wanted to show people exactly what that meant."

Sure of You could not help being darker than its forerunners. In *Further Tales* there is a loving portrait whom Maupin freely admits is Rock Hudson ("strictly auto-biographical," he says). In *Sure of You* there is a much less flattering portrait of a designer whose international success depends upon his staying in the closet.

Tales of the City begins with Mary Ann arriving in San Francisco for a holiday and deciding to stay. *Sure of You* deals with her departure, and the emotional ructions it causes.

Maupin announces that he is "ready to talk in other voices. I have lived with these folks for 15 years, and I felt it was time to try something different." He has written some of the script for a musical currently in rehearsal, pending an opening on Broadway in the autumn. "It's very exciting to hear actors reading my dialogue," he says.

It is only the problem of finance which has prevented the rapier-sharp dialogue of *Tales of the City* from finding its way to television. "Americans are running scared of even the tamest material about gay and lesbian life," he says. This is a shame, because Maupin's people are not mere sexual stereotypes going about their carnal business.

"An English reporter criticized me for not having sex scenes in the books," he concludes. "I told him that that's the problem with the British: if you did it a little more often you wouldn't have to read about it." As messages to the nation go, it is certainly different. Much like the man, and his tales.

• *Sure of You* is published by Chatto & Windus this week at £12.95

Something was said, but what?

DANCE

John Percival

Karin Vyncke
ICA

This dancer from Brussels, new to London I believe, is at the ICA until Saturday to open a four-week season by women choreographers.

While the audience waits, we hear a recording of "Mon cœur souffre à ta voix" from Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Dalila*. But when we set eyes on Vyncke, she seems no Delilah: if her heart has softly awakened, it seems to have been shattered again by a man who stands watching her hesitate across the forestage, tremulously spilling the water she tries to carry in a bowl.

Behind her is a cage of wire netting, and she spends the rest of the performance trapped inside, but not before a group of men have scattered stiff white feathers all over the floor and thrown dead birds around. Here she meets her other self, played by Lorna Giroto, who smiles brightly while Vyncke cannot hide her frowns. But both of them struggle equally in an environment that seems constantly to trip them up.

At the end, Vyncke succumbs and lies buried under the dead birds, but Giroto takes new heart, nourishes herself greedily on milk and an apple, and is last seen climbing out of the trap while a breeze begins to clear the floor of its feathered debris (to which the women have substantially added as they went along).

I would not pretend to interpret every clue and symbol offered in the course of this action, but the general purport seems clear enough, and it is illuminated by the performances of the two women. Vyncke calls the piece *Sous les vêtements blancs*, and whatever she means that to convey, to me it is clear that under these white skirts and loose tops are two highly purposeful and resilient people, making use of considerable physical skills and courage to say something about an attitude to life.

A few such as

attractive 15-year-olds, leader with oafs about her – begged to be an actress ("I don't want to look at it as that," she says). Longingly. But others they admit: "I was really of being like this," having to go to prison, either failed, or been beaten up, do their children

The campers seem to reinforce

some way towards the heart they found in the Can can

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Spell check

A press release from

Dyslexia Institute reads as

since he has produced by vi-

such suffers as Edie

Curry to one of two new

it has published. Error as

Curry's joke is one of my

Funny Joke Book. The

book is a collection of es-

says, poems, riddles and pic-

and children called As I See

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Sisters on a virtuosic scramble

RECITALS

Noel Goodwin

Labeque Sisters
Festival Hall

calculated balance, but the exuberant virtuosity never slackened.

Before this, they began an uncommonly short programme (less than an hour of music all told, before the encores) in even closer partnership, with four hands at one piano. This crowded the top, bottom and middle of the keyboard with sometimes charming, sometimes noisy, and at times even noisy, playing.

The music concentrates the mood on elements of intricate rhythm and sometimes polytonal harmony, and although the young players took the opening "Russian Dance" at a pretty fast scramble, the percussive character of their keyboard attack suited the pictorial qualities of "Petrushka's Room" and the frosty glitter of the "Shrove-tide Fair". The harmonic colour that emerged was more a matter of random accord than

Irvin Kostal's arrangement of

Stephen Pettitt

Benda Musicians
Wigmore Hall

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Diet of fun and games?

Alexandra King on a growing problem for American parents

Perhaps it is because Britain has Butlins and boarding schools that summer camps for children have never quite taken off here. But in the United States plenty of middle-class parents are prepared to pay \$500 (£297) a week for their children to be taken off their hands.

And when those children have reached the uncomfortably large proportions of an estimated 30 to 40 per cent of American children, it is easier to send them to a "fat camp" than to try to get to the root of the problem at home.

Welcome to Fat Camp", tonight's Q.E.D. programme on BBC1, goes behind the 12-ft-high perimeter fences around Camp Shane in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, where summer camps cluster as thickly as the inmates' pimples. The documentary calls the camp "a unique concept", although there are scores of "fat camps" on the east coast of America, and probably hundreds more scattered across the country.

While some camps are run by the big slimming organisations, Camp Shane is an independent, family-owned camp commanded by a thin, moustachioed man called David Ettenberg. It could be called Camp Staine, for some of its campers refused to be included in the film for fear it would be shown on American television.

A few - such as Marlene, an attractive 15-year-old cheerleader with only about 12lb to lose - begged to be allowed to attend ("I don't want to be looked at as not fat, I want to be looked at as thin," she says longingly). But others, even if they admit "I was really tired of being like this", have been forced to go by parents who have either failed, or cannot be bothered, to do anything about their children's obesity.

The children regard the camp as imprisonment, and much about the way it is run seems to reinforce that impression. "To me, it's the parents' fault," says the slim nutritionist, disapprovingly, and there is the unpleasant sense that blame is apportioned with the meagre meals.

The diet takes no account of age, sex or size," the programme comments, and is limited to 1,700 calories a day, "about half the recommended intake for a growing child".

Youngsters who have never had more exercise than pressing the buttons on the television remote control are suddenly made to participate in punishing routines to mortify the flesh. They look sweaty and miserable, the camera cruelly focusing on wobbly bellies and elephantine thighs. "Up... Down... Spread 'em!" shouts the instructor with drill-sergeant sadism. (The children have to pass a medical examination before they are enrolled.) But the camp claims its greatest strength is that it has "created an environment where these kids feel normal" - where they don't have to be afraid to be seen in a swimming costume, and where they can even explore relationships with the opposite sex without fear of ridicule or rejection because of their size. It caters for boys and girls aged from seven to 16, with a special "young adult programme" for young women aged 17-25.

Scott, who wants to be an astronaut, weighs 217lb - already 32lb over the maximum weight allowed for fully-grown male astronauts; he acknowledges glumly, Nevertheless, he is furious that his parents have sent him here instead of giving him the support he needs at home. "Big fat smile," demands the woman taking the prison-style photographs which mark his progress.

A resident psychologist offers sympathetic counselling, and a shoulder to blubber on, but as the programme's producer, Barbara May, asks:



Young star in the flesh: summer inmate Mike Rein, who lost 54lb in nine weeks at Camp Shane

"How much can one woman do for 300 kids? How can she possibly break down those defences in so little time - when the first problem she has to deal with is homesickness, which is common to kids in all camps?"

One of the most moving scenes is of Scott sobbing in the telephone box: "Mom, I'd like to know if I can come home. Did you get my letter I sent? I wrote six!" His father

takes pity on him, but the camp, its commandant explains, is "reluctant to let people leave early because it undermines morale". He asserts that Scott "treated his own failure".

May was moved to make the documentary because of her worries about the health of children today both in her native America and in Britain, where she has lived and worked for the past 12 years.

She has a son aged nine and a daughter aged seven, and she was "tired of being the only mother in the car pool who didn't give the kids a chocolate bar or crisps as soon as they got into the car".

She was also horrified to learn that the average American child who watched four hours of television a day would have seen 20,000 food commercials by the time he had turned 18, frightened to

discover that children of her son's age had furred-up arteries, and concerned at the way "affluence, laziness, divorce and working parents" were, as she saw it, conspiring to produce a generation of unhealthy couch potatoes.

"Do you know that only one state in America has obligatory physical education in schools now?" she demands. (The state is Illinois.) "In many ways the camps have to have the discipline they do because of the complete lack of discipline these kids have at home. They have to be pushed into sport. And they must enjoy it, because 50 per cent of them come back again."

Once only the comfortably-off would send their offspring to "fat camp", but now "problem kids" are being sent by councils as part of "training to learn to deal with society in a more positive way by first learning to deal with their bodies", May says.

"My parents wanted me to come because they thought I couldn't take it any more, and I couldn't," weeps Josiah, a would-be actor who already has an agent at the age of 14. "And my agent wanted me to come..." At the end of the summer he has lost 34lb. But he has found some self-esteem, which May feels to be much more important. He has since landed a part in a television series.

May has kept in touch with some of the children whose progress she monitored, to see whether, once they were out of the artificially controlled environment, they would slip back into the bad old habits. Surprisingly, Josiah (who was truly enormous) continued to lose weight and gain confidence after the camp, while the glamorous Marlene - who got to within a few pounds of her desperately desired goal - had put back 6lb within six months.

The camps have noted that more children are checking in who have only 10lb or 15lb to lose instead of huge amounts of weight, as the obsession with having a perfect figure becomes more intense. But for the grossly overweight ones, like Josiah, May says the desire is simply to be normal.

"And some of them had had weight problems all their lives: I spoke to the mother of one nine-year-old and he'd been to the Rochester Nutrition Unit since he was three!" When girls aged six to eight are asked if they have been on a diet before, it is somehow tragic that all but two are shown

raising their hands.

• Q.E.D.: Welcome to Fat Camp is on BBC1 at 9.30pm tonight.

FIRST PERSON

Lessons for a good life

Children spend from a third to a half of their waking lives in school. Yet there is a lack of certainty about what we expect schools to teach - apart, that is, from facts.

Do we want character, moral and social sense to be part of the core curriculum? Or should these be left entirely to parents? Is a school a personal, pastoral place or an efficient information filling-station? It would be no bad idea if we could, collectively, make up our minds, because tensions are brewing.

Recently, for instance, we heard that Newmarket Upper School in Suffolk was abandoning a much-admired new timetable in which an unusual emphasis was placed on "guidance", life skills and citizenship.

After a curriculum squeeze and complaints from some teachers that they were not trained to act as counsellors, the school's pupils are now back on a more conventional diet of lessons and assemblies. Also, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, has attacked the national curriculum's emphasis on specific skills: this mechanistic approach, he said, "can deaden creativity, neglect human and effective growth and lead to emotional and spiritual deprivation".

Those who rage at "indoctrination" by teachers and point to the private sector as an example of "old-fashioned schooling in the three R's" might do well to reflect that our public schools are not long sprung out of the Rugby where Dr Arnold drilled morality for long compulsory hours in chapel, and that the spirit of character-forming still pervades most independent prospectuses.

Despite the reverence for "qualifications", one suspects that parents in the state sector do not flock to schools entirely for the exam results. We want more, what the jargon calls PSME - personal, social and moral education.

But PSME is at a crossroads: first, because of the publicity given to scare stories about teachers allegedly promoting socialism, homosexuality and so on in schooltime; themselves as subject-teachers only I won't accept that." He runs a popular, highly rated school, but in a teacher shortage, not all heads can afford to be so fussy.

There is, of course, always the true progressive approach. A. S. Neill founded Summerhill school in Suffolk, on principles of total freedom, no rules or compulsory lessons, and Zoe Redhead, his daughter, affirms them still.

With 65 pupils from all over the free-thinking world, she sums up the Summerhill PSME - or lack of it: "We are anti-morals. When someone dug up Neill's potatoes he made an almighty fuss, but insisted it was only because they were his potatoes and had taken time to plant."

"An ordinary schoolmaster would have made a moral point of it. But we see things in practical terms - you can't live with other people and damage their things. We don't set out to make you a better person." Summerhill parents know exactly what they are getting. But do the rest of us?

Libby Purves

Heartfelt gifts

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Valentine gift-givers can go some way towards helping hearts through the British Heart Foundation's appeal if they buy their loving tokens from the Can Can company, which sells cans of Laurent-Perrier champagne or chocolates for £16.95, or Just Balloons, which sends helium-filled, heart-shaped balloons with a choice of greetings. Each company has promised to donate "a generous percentage" of profits to the BHF if customers mention the foundation when placing their order. Contact the Can Can company at 22 Charterhouse Works, Eltringham Street, London SW18 1TD (01-877 1233), and Just Balloons at 82 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (01-434 3039). Or you might prefer to make your donation direct to the BHF at 102 Gloucester Place, London WIH 4DH.

Spell check

A press release from the Dyslexia Institute reads as if it has been produced by victims, since it refers to contributions by such sufferers as Edwin Curry to one of two new books it has published. Error aside, Currie's joke is one of many rib-ticklers in the *Kneedingly Funny Joke Book*. The other book is a collection of essays, poems, paintings and photographs from dyslexic adults and children called *As I See It*.



"We read the dictionary. It's always by our bed. On this side is an English one, a Collins, and on my side an American, Random House."

Marlene Wiggins, wife of Salmon Ettenberg

Death calling

A National Telephone Bereavement Advisory Service has just been launched by the funeral directors PRG Hodgson Kenyon International. Sir Harry Seacombe supplies the voice of the information and children called *As I See It*.

service, which was compiled in consultation with solicitors, funeral directors, the DHSS and Cruse - Bereavement Care, a national organization that offers practical and emotional support. Topics such as "Making a will" and "Planning your immediate money matters on death" are interspersed with "Coping with bereavement" and "Arranging a funeral". Calls are charged at the normal British Telecom rates for such services, 38p a minute during peak time and 25p off-peak, with "a percentage of the income" from each call going to Help the Aged. A free leaflet with further details is available from PFG Hodgson Kenyon Bereavement Support Service, The Oaklands, 2 Holyhead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 0LT, or from the company's 400 branches and selected libraries.

Mask master

Put some drama into the children's half-term holiday by making traditional Chinese opera masks. A special workshop, which must be booked in advance, will be held for the children of Times readers on Saturday, February 24, from 10am to 12 noon at the Museum Store, 37 The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8RF (01-240 5760). The free workshop will take place under the direction of Yip Hi Chu, a Chinese mask-making expert, and all materials will be provided. To book a place either write or telephone, mentioning or enclosing this cutting.

Garden paths

Nearly 3,000 gardens which can be visited and enjoyed are listed in *Gardens of England and Wales Open in 1990*, to be published tomorrow. All are members of the National Gardens Scheme, which ensures that money paid for entrance will go to a good cause. Copies can be obtained for £2.25 (inc. p&p) direct from the National Gardens Scheme, Hatchlands Park, East Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RT (0483 211535), or from bookshops in about two weeks' time for £1.50.

Fathers' days

In the vast majority of divorces the mother gets the children and the father can feel shut out. Sunday's *Evening Standard* programme (BBC1, 10.30pm) focuses on the problems of the non-custodial parent, who is often unaware of his rights. A special helpline will be in operation for two hours after the programme and on Monday, manned by Fathers Need Fathers, voluntary organization which has been fighting for a fairer deal for fathers after divorce. Trevor Berry, chairman of FNF, says: "People are very green about the law, and getting advice from lawyers is often expensive. We will put them in touch with our members in different areas to offer emotional support and practical advice." The helpline number is 01-886 0970.

Victoria McKee

Say it with bubbly

St Valentine's Day is only a week away and romance is in the air. You may already have made arrangements to send a message to a loved one through the columns of this newspaper. If not, there is still time to make a special gesture. In *The Times* on Saturday, Nicole Swengle suggests in-

THE TIMES

SATURDAY

IN COLOUR

expensive Valentine presents which are romantic but not soppy. In the wine column Jane MacQuitty describes how best to send a Valentine message in a bottle. Champagne is the acknowledged accompaniment for celebrations, the most romantic of wines, and there is a particularly good pink champagne available. But all alcohol tends to make the blood race and MacQuitty has plenty of other vinous recommendations. And Robin Young looks at the tradition of food as an aphrodisiac. Oysters and figs should be on the Valentine menu - and even carrot and coriander soup.

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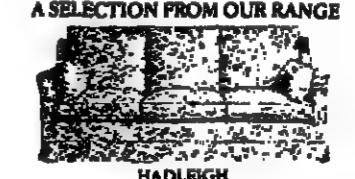
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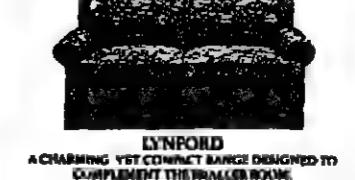
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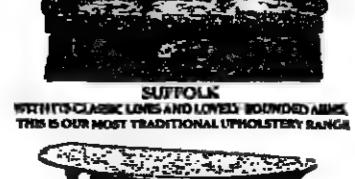
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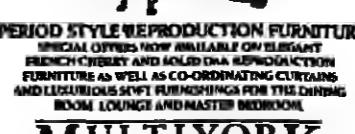
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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
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THEATRE

LONDON

* **A LIFE IN THE THEATRE:** Denholm Elliott and Samuel West in Marmont's study of an old actor and his ambitious junior; the players stronger than the story. Lyric Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-538 2680). Tube: Covent Garden. Tues-Sat 8pm, mat. Thurs, Sat and Sun 4.30pm, 2.30-6.15pm.

* **NOEL AND GERTIE:** Patrick Hodge and Simon Callow sing and dance in Sheridan Morley's trip down Memory Lane. This show's not in its last week, as seen on the cover yesterday.

Lyric Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-538 2680). Tube: Covent Garden. Tues-Sat 8pm, mat. Thurs, Sat and Sun 4.30pm, 2.30-6.15pm.

* **THE PRICE:** Welcome revival of Arthur Miller's fine play in which two brothers discover their dead father's character and their own; with Bob Peck, David Calder and Alan Mackaughan. Young Vic Theatre, Cut, SE1 (01-928 6363). Tube: Waterloo. Opens Sat 2pm, then Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat. Sat 2.30pm, 7pm.

* **PRISE:** Commanding performance by Sheila Hancock as a rude, slobbish, eccentric college principal with principles you have to admire. Last week.

Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-437 3656). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 7.45-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.45pm, mat. Sat 4.30-7pm, Sun 2.30-5pm.

* **RACING DEMONS:** Richard Eyre directs David Hare's new play with Michael Bryant as one of a group of London clergymen trying to do good in their inner-city mission.

Almeida Theatre, Coates Lane, South Bank, SE1 (01-222 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Preview tonight 7.30pm, opens tomorrow 7pm, then in repertory, 22.50.

* **THREE:** Griff Rhys Jones and Emma Thompson in the classic Aldwych farce. Last week. Transfers to Savoy Theatre, Feb 20.

Lyric Theatre, King Street, London W8 (01-741 2311). Tube: Hammerton.

Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat. Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4pm, 2.30-5pm.

OUT OF TOWN

LEATHERHEAD: A New Stephen Sondheim Wasteland Was the FA Cup Stage version of J.L. Carr's touchingly funny novel.

Theatricle Theatre, Church St (0372 377 677), Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Thurs-Sat 8pm, 2.30-5pm.

LIVERPOOL: It Tosses Money: Ayckbourn's NT version of the Aldwych farce in which very complicated plotlines allow a scheme to grab an inheritance.

Playhouse, Williamson Sq (01-709 8503). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm; mat Sat 2pm, 2.30-7.30pm.

CLASSICAL TOP 20

1	(1) Vivid: Four Seasons	Kennedy/ECO, HMV
2	(--) Bernstein in Berlin	Barenboim, DG
3	Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto	Kennedy/ECO/DECCA, HMV
4	Elgar: Cello Concerto	Du Pre/Barenboim/PDO, CBS
5	Hans: The Planets	Kargan/BPO, DG
6	Vivaldi: Four Seasons	Hogwood/AAM, L'Orchestre Lire Ozawa/HND, Philips
7	(7) Bizet: Carmen Highlights	Karajan/BPO, DG
8	(8) Albinoni: Adagio	Rattle/CBSO, HMV
9	(8) Sibelius: Symphony 5	Domingo/RHO, HMV
10	(11) Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake Highlights	Ermler/RHO, RO
11	(11) Lloyd Webber: Requiem	Domingo/Brightman/ECO, HMV
12	(12) Mahler: Resurrection	Kapell, IMP Classics
13	(14) Beethoven: Symphony 9	Karajan/BPO, DG
14	(14) Tchaikovsky: Nutcracker Highlights	Ermler/RHO, RO
15	(--) Elgar: Cello Concerto	Lloyd Webber/Mehrnush/RPO, Philips
16	(--) Holst: The Planets	Davis/BPO, Philips
17	(--) Puccini: Mimi Butterfly Highlights	Karajan/VPO, Decca Opera
18	(--) Bizet: Carmen Highlights	Karajan/BPO, DG
20	(16) Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto 2	Ashkenazy/Haitink/COA, Decca

Source: Music Week Research

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2096**ACROSS**

1 Testament (4)

3 Muslim religion (5)

8 Beau (5.2)

10 Strong point (5)

11 London underground (4)

12 Timber-dressing tool (4)

13 However (3)

15 Mendicant's mischievous (7.6)

17 Crown (3)

19 Wise man (4)

20 Story line (4)

23 Roguelike opera-com-

poser (7)

25 Put on scales (5)

26 Gambit (4)

DOWN

1 Loudmouth (7)

2 Glass-maker's oven (4)

4 Mellowed (8)

5 Impressive display (5)

6 Location (4)

7 Preferable (6)

9 Pedagogue (9)

14 Dry Rhine wine (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 2095

ACROSS: 1 Quantum leap 9 Hellene 10 Ruche 11 Dak 13 Tone 16 Ball

17 Roddie 18 Kick Flaw 21 Igne 22 Ibs 23 Wadi 25 Tic 28 Heave

29 Rhizome 30 Collaborate

DOWN: 2 Ulam 3 Neep 4 Used 5 Lark 6 Accred 7 White knight 8 Yellow

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London EC1V 9EJ

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Multiple babies group finds it's cold outside



The Countess Mountbatten of Burma meeting some of the twins, triplets and quadruplets at an appeal yesterday for funds for a headquarters for the Multiple Births Foundation, Britain's only professional support group for families with twins and higher-order births. They met in the car park of the Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, west London, where the headquarters building will rise. From left, the McLeod triplets of Harrow, the Taylor twins of Hackney and the Cummins triplets of Ealing, and the Oshinawa quadruplets from Golders Green.

Thatcher confirms readiness to review military strategy

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government's readiness to consider changes in the military strategy of Britain and the Nato alliance in response to the changes in Eastern Europe was confirmed yesterday by the Prime Minister and by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence.

Mr King told the Commons that the changes, which the Government hoped would endure "to offer the prospect of economies and the prospect of changes in our defence arrangements". Mrs Thatcher later gave what MPs saw as the first sign of a softening in her stance on the modernization of short-range nuclear weapons in Europe, the issue which threatened a major Nato split last year.

She told a Labour MP who

had asked why she wanted short-range weapons trained on East Germany to be modernized at a time when they were struggling for democracy that "the changes and negotiations that are taking place will require some difference in the weapons we need".

Whitehall sources said later that Mrs Thatcher was acknowledging the need to

Hurd urges caution 9

look at changes in strategy and defence requirements in the light of changing events.

But MPs detected in her remarks and those of Mr King a shift of emphasis away from initial responses to the Soviet bloc changes and American force reductions.

The Times disclosed last week that Mrs Thatcher is heading an informal group of ministers who are assessing the way ahead for Nato in the light of the diminishing threat from the nations of the Warsaw pact.

But she said that this would enable Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, to meet without difficulty the obligations required under Nato, the Helsinki agreement and the four-power agreement on Berlin.

The group, whose existence has since been confirmed by government sources, is understood to be turning their attention to other areas of potential trouble for the West and considering more flexible multi-purpose roles for Britain's forces.

Mr King said yesterday: "We need to keep under review the changes that are taking place. There is not some quick trick ... there is not some smart answer."

Mrs Thatcher again emphasiz-

ed her caution over the reunification of Germany, suggesting that there should be a "considerable" transition period.

But she said that this would enable Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, to meet without difficulty the obligations required under Nato, the Helsinki agreement and the four-power agreement on Berlin.

Mr Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton, said that a unified Germany now seemed not only inevitable but imminent.

He said that that would have enormous implications for western defence policy, requiring detailed, radical and possibly uncomfortable consideration by Nato leaders.

Mr Hougham

of the 32,000 workforce, Mr Ian Hougham, Ford's director of personnel, said last night in Gerona, northern Spain, there would be no new talks with leaders of the two main unions involved in the disputes, the electricians' EETPU, and the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

He pointed out that the pay deal of 18.2 per cent over two years was accepted in a secret ballot by a majority of the hourly-paid workforce

throughout Ford. Yet, while 93 per cent of the employees were manning production lines normally, just 7 per cent — the craftsmen and electricians — were causing widespread disruption, including 13,000 lay-offs in Britain and Belgium.

Mr Hougham emphasized: "There will be no new negotiations. There will be no separate deals with any individual unions."

However, it is the attitude

of Ford chiefs in Europe and the United States who authorize investment that may eventually have the greatest say in the dispute.

Mr Hougham said: "A major consideration is what this dispute does to Britain's credibility as a car manufacturer. It affects the attitude of people who make investment decisions" — meaning Ford executives in Britain, Europe and at the company's headquarters in America.

Strikers 'jeopardize' Ford investment

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

Ford last night gave a warning that wilful strikes costing the company £10 million a day could mean the end of vital investment in its 21 British factories.

Britain's biggest car company is taking a firm stand against 2,300 striking craftsmen who are refusing to accept its two-year pay deal against the wishes of the rest

of Ford. Yet, while 93 per cent of the employees were manning production lines normally, just 7 per cent — the craftsmen and electricians — were causing widespread disruption, including 13,000 lay-offs in Britain and Belgium.

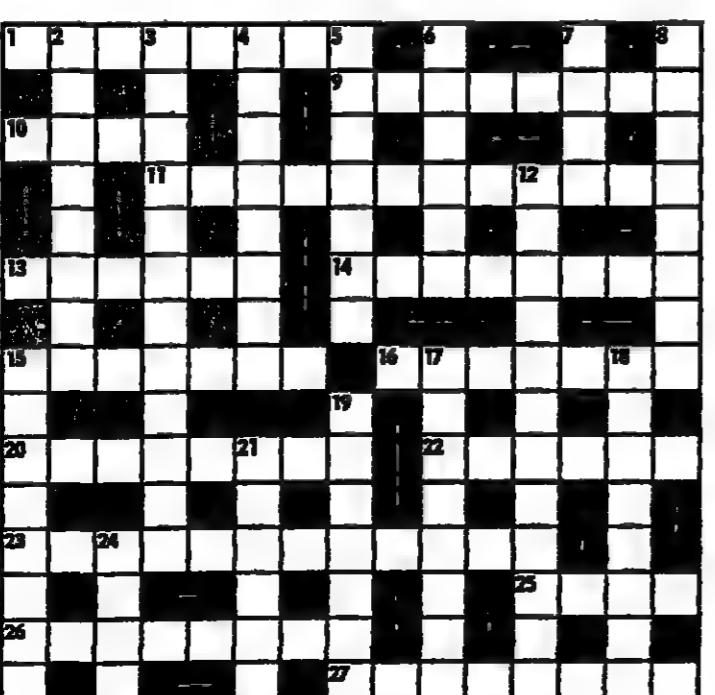
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,211



ACROSS

- Stop first man joining the May-flower (8).
- Told this is the way to catch (8).
- No end of room on this farm (4).
- Once it was standard to put a small light in front of shipping hazards (5,3,4).
- She's making a concession — hurry (6).
- Nettle appears to cause skin reaction (6).
- Strange Scottish hut, dilapidated and rough (7).
- Heavy mass of mineral in explosion (7).
- Together, hold all types of legal proceeding (8).
- African poet in the army (6).
- Held counters arranged in combinations (12).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,210

LOCUST	TWENTIES
A A U I A A S H	
M A N X M A N R E M O R E	
P A M C M E A L	
S I S T E R H O O D F E L L	
H T R N G C L	
A D A P T E D G R A T I N G	
D I U E T R	
E N D E M I C R A T A F I A	
I E K L L L P	
R A G A A L L T H E S A M E	
A R H I Q V Y S	
T H E R E I N T A R N I S H	
E S E G E I M H O	
L A S T P O S T A D V E R T	

Concise crossword, page 20

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Webster

MALM

- An aromatic resin
- A respectful address
- Brick-builders' lingo

FREIT

- An omen
- Dutch whitebait
- A free burgher

HOVOPONONO

- Japanese kite-flying
- Talking things over
- Seaweed and coconut stew

SEROS

- A phalanx shield
- A sacred enclosure
- A barren fig tree

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C London (within N & S Circs) 1.731

M1/M25/M23/M4/M1-Dartford 1...732

M25/M26/Dartford T...733

M25/M26/M23/M4 1.734

M25 London Orbital only 1.735

National motorways

1.737

West Country 1.738

Wales 1.739

Midlands 1.740

East Anglia 1.741

North-west England 1.742

North-east England 1.743

Scotland 1.744

Northern Ireland 1.745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) or 12 seconds (off peak).

Information supplied by Met Office

Gloucester & Shetland 726

727

Glasgow

Monday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24 hr to 8 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 3 hr.

Information supplied by Met Office

More concessions made by Pretoria

Continued from page 1

to the chairs and tables, and kick and say "I'm not coming out!" Dr Boesak said. "However, he will warn them that, if the conditions are not met, he will be obliged to issue a statement about them on his release."

If Dr Boesak's statements reflect Mandela's views accurately, they appear to remove the last political obstacles to his freedom.

Mr Walter Sisulu, who returned home yesterday from visits to Zambia, Tanzania and Scandinavia, with other recently freed ANC leaders, said: "We consider De Clerk's speech a progressive step, but unfortunately there were some half measures."

"We see no reason why Nelson Mandela was not released ..." The armed struggle will continue.

● LONDON: The Government has protested to South Africa about the expulsion of two British journalists over their coverage of the rebel cricket tour, the Prime Minister told the Commons yesterday.

Later she repeated South Africa's explanation that one man entered the country as a tourist and failed to get the necessary journalists' visa and permit, and the other gave a first-person account of an anti-tour demonstration at Johannesburg airport at which he had not been present.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said:

"It comes to something when the Prime Minister uses the despatch box to relay the South African Government's excuses..."

Later he repeated South Africa's explanation that one man entered the country as a tourist and failed to get the necessary journalists' visa and permit, and the other gave a first-person account of an anti-tour demonstration at Johannesburg airport at which he had not been present.

While I write, the air above Westminster is thick with insults, as Michael Latham, MP picks up from a little knapsack and trudges sadly off towards the Rutland sunset.

He had become (he signed last week) "far too bland".

Commons sketch

The MP with time for the other side

"Hm," replies the PM, reflectively, "Well, yes and no. As you say, Neil, we haven't ironed out all the problems. But as you'd be first to admit — the inspectors found much to praise."

"Sure, Maggie, but — as I know you'd want to acknowledge — they had some harsh things to say, too. Not all of your fault, I realize; frankly, education began to go off the rails during the last Labour Government..."

"Oh come, Neil. Some of it is our fault. I think everyone accepts we've driven the teachers spare with all the so-called 'reforms' we've been throwing at them..."

"Too modest, Prime Minister. These changes had to come. Without your courage and resolution..."

"Oh, it's not been down to me, Neil. I've got a wonderful team working for me — and the Opposition has done a splendid job, too, keeping us all on our toes..."

You may be surprised to hear that it did not go quite this way. What actually happened was this...

Mr Kinnoch called the schools' inspectors' report a "damning indictment".

Mrs Thatcher replied that most schools were satisfactory and the inspectors had given a better summary than Mr Kinnoch. So stuck.

The Labour leader went absolutely bananas and shouted that if only two thirds of schooling was satisfactory that meant a third of it was "lousy". Why didn't she tell the whole truth?"

The Prime Minister reported that it was a "good report". So knuckled down.

Mr K got even angrier. Children were "being betrayed" and she did not care.

Mrs T said that at least the inspectors were able to keep their fluff on...

And so on. Later, someone buried a notebook down from the public gallery, aimed (it seemed) at the Chief Whip.

While I write, the air above Westminster is thick with insults, as Michael Latham, MP picks up from a little knapsack and trudges sadly off towards the Rutland sunset.

He had become (he signed last week) "far too bland".

Matthew Parris

Flooding forecast to hit the South today

Continued from page 1

happened to them or the boat. Divers have been down to the spot where the crab pots were but have found nothing."

The Government and the European Commission are providing more cash for repairs. The EC is adding £200,000 to the £600,000 it has already donated from a disaster fund of £2.4 million and the Government is to activate an emergency

fund to help councils clear flood damage in the Severn Valley. Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities, said he was "dismayed" by what he saw in Gloucestershire.

However, Lord Sanderson of Bowden, the Minister of State at the Scottish Office, told Scottish MPs that there would be no short-term financial aid for domestic repairs for families with damaged homes.

In Scotland all main roads were open but rail services in the Highlands were disrupted.

In England water was still blocking the east-bound carriageway of the A303 east of Andover in Hampshire. Cookham, Berkshire, was cut off.

Police in Southampton interviewed three roofers over allegations of card-board tiles.

WEATHER



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23

- BUSINESS & FINANCE 23-28
- BRITAIN'S LOST BATTLE 26
- LAW 30-31
- ANTIQUES 29
- MEDIA & MARKETING 30-31
- PROPERTY 37,39
- SPORT 40-44

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7000 (+0.0045)

W German mark
2.8216 (-0.0095)

Exchange index
89.3 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1835.6 (-25.4)

FT-SE 100
2321.1 (-27.3)

USM (Datstream)
155.83 (-0.26)

Market report, page 24

Shares on the slide

Share prices on both sides of the Atlantic slid yesterday as investors worried about this week's US bond auction.

An early 25-point Dow Jones fall saw the FT-SE 100 close down 27.3 at 2,321.1. Dealers fear the market may test the 2,300 level today.

Market report, page 24
Wall Street, page 26

Aaronson falls

Aaronson Bros, hit by poor conditions in DIY and home improvement, saw pre-tax profits slump from £5.82 million to £2.12 million in the year to September. The final fall from 3.95p to 1.7p.

Tempus, page 24

Securicor rises

Securicor group profits surged from £27.3 million to £38.2 million for the year to end-September. A final dividend of 1.076p lifts the total to 1.516p, 17 per cent up.

Tempus, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2597.97 (-24.55)*

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 37865.83 (+36.42)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2722.88 (+36.22)

Australia: ASX Tendency 111.9 (-1.6)

Frankfurt DAX 1937.72 (-1.71)

Brussels: General 5199.59 (-32.95)

Paris: CAC 562.67 (-3.13)

Zurich: Ska 616.5 (-1.5)

London: FT "All-Share" 1180.98 (-1.03)

FT "250" 1622.93 (+2.06)

FT: Gold Mines 378.5 (-3.18)

FT: Fixed interest 90.97 (+0.04)

FT: Govt Secs 81.23 (+0.21)

Recent issue closing prices Page 26

Closing prices Page 27

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Russia: J Liang 2921.40 (+12.8)

Indonesia: 590p (-10.5)

DAKS Simpson 'A' 457.5p (-15.0)

Hardanger 545p (+20.0)

Falls: Carlton Conran 772.5p (-18.9)

Ultramar 373.5p (-11.5)

Cadbury Schweppes 343p (-10.5)

Body Shop 585p (-10.0)

Securicor 882p (-38.0)

Security Services 682.5p (-10.5)

Unilever 682.5p (-10.5)

Priest Mariani 187.5p (-35.0)

Grand Met 588p (-10.0)

Guinness 647.5p (-11.0)

Rosehaugh 332.5p (-37.0)

Costain 228.5p (-11.0)

Anglo Group 272.5p (-15.0)

Bridgwater 187.5p (-11.0)

Met West 384.5p (-11.0)

Met West 347p (-10.0)

Closing prices Bergans 259.07

SEAG Volume 407.8m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%

3-month Interbank 15%-15.1%

3-month sterling 14.5%-14.5%

3-month Euro 10.5%

Financial Funds 9.5%

3-month Treasury Bills 7.51-7.50%

30-year bonds 9.51-9.55%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: \$1.7025

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TEMPUS

Poor reception on Securicor's line

Mobile telephones should have no wires, but the market appears to have found some to cross at Securicor, 40 per cent owner of Celnet. Its results were badly out of line with analysts' expectations and were not accompanied by news of any imminent investment, as dealers had been hoping.

Like motorists whose concentration has been compromised by the introduction of the personal phone, Securicor's followers, entranced by Celnet's potential, appear to have taken an eye off the road.

While Celnet came close to matching the £20 million contribution predicted for it early last year, chief executive Roger Wiggs saw core businesses sag. The parcels operation simply failed to experience its traditional boom in August and September.

Securicor shares, highlighted as one of the top 10 performers of the Eighties, promptly fell below 800p, dragging the p/e multiple below 50. They had been particularly strong of late on Celnet sale talk, which was firmly quashed by the company yesterday.

By virtue of its slightly lower market share and significantly higher early development costs, Celnet has taken a good year longer to yield a return than Racal's Vodafone, but should now provide Securicor with 40 per cent compound growth over the next five years.

It will need some sanity to

Unitech

Unitech's shares, at 378p, are almost exactly double what they were in 1988. In July that year, Unitech found favour with a £50 million placing at above the ruling market price, which left Electrowatt, the Swiss electronics group, with a 29.9 per cent stake. But four months later, Unitech's rating was in the doldrums again after it splashed out \$327 million to buy Veco, the world's largest manufacturer of power supplies for electronic equipment.

The acquisition, coupled with the subsequent disposal of its original electronic component businesses for an overall £71 million, trans-

Eagle cuts bank debt by another £8.5m

By Jeremy Andrews

Mr David James, the chairman of Eagle Trust, the engineering and film camera hire group, has made further progress in reducing the £99 million of bank borrowings which he found when he took over in September.

Last week, the company received the first instalment of £4.25 million from the administrators of MCP Building Supplies, the builders' merchant subsidiary which collapsed in August.

Together with the £4.2 million realized from the sale of Grundy & Pilling, another builders' merchant, Eagle raised a total of £8.5 million in January.

Eagle has two Rolls-Royce cars used by former executives after the return by the Irish police of the vehicle run by Mr John Ferriday, a former chairman.

The £60,000 car, which was found this week in Co Wicklow, will be cleaned up and sold, as has another Rolls-Royce used by a former managing director.

Mr Ferriday is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the West Midlands Police in connection with the alleged theft of £13.5 million.

Unlike the warrant issued for Mr Ferriday's arrest by Northampton County Court last September, the police warrant may be exercised in the Irish Republic, where Mr Ferriday is believed to have hidden since his disappearance in May.

SECURICOR



Say in core businesses: Roger Wiggs saw Securicor's parcel operation boom fail to materialize

formed Unitech. It ceased to be a distributor, dependent on Britain and continental Europe. At a stroke, the US became its biggest market and Unitech became the largest manufacturer of power supplies in Japan.

Analysts thought dilution would be inevitable, given that Unitech paid 22 times earnings for Veco. They seem to have been proved right, as earnings in the six months to November fell 4 per cent to 3.7p, despite a 57 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.3 million.

With Dr Tettamanti to join forces with Electrowatt, he would only stand 3 per cent short of control, which goes a long way towards accounting for the complete rehabilitation of Unitech's rating. With prof-

its of £29 million and earnings of 21.2p in the offing this year, the shares now reflect a commanding prospective p/e ratio of 18.

Electrowatt is free to bid or sell its shares in August and shareholders should hang on for developments.

Aaronson

Aaronson Bros looks in need of some DIY repairs on its profit and loss account after a year when pre-tax profits fell 63 per cent from £5.82 million to £2.12 million and the final

dividend was slashed from 3.95p to 1.7p a share. The final is lower than the interim, and leaves the year's total dividend at 3.5p (5.75p).

Though the slowdown in the DIY and home improvement market takes the lion's share of the blame, plant reorganizations and relocation expenses have also taken their toll.

The setback was particularly notable in the second half, when April-to-September pre-tax profits were a mere £709,000.

Aaronson admits that turnover in the first quarter of the current year remained weak, although it insists that it was better than the last quarter of the 1989 financial year, and that the underlying trend is improving.

The group is cagey about whether there have been any loss-making quarters.

A property revaluation gives the group a net worth of 78p a share, against 66p a year ago, but gearing is 62 per cent and interest covers a thin 2.5 times. While cutting costs should make an impact, as would a stronger advance in Europe, the group needs a healthy consumer climate at home before profits climb with any real strength. Thus, not much more than £2.3 million pre-tax is expected this year, and dividend restoration is some way off.

At 70p, on a rating of 14.9 times, the shares are looking well ahead of themselves.

STOCK MARKET

Growth warning trims food shares

By Michael Clark

Shares of the leading food manufacturers were beating a hasty retreat last night after Smith New Court, the securities house, issued a warning that most of them would find the going tough in 1990.

Traditionally, food manufacturers and retailers are regarded as a haven for investors in times of recession, but it looks as though they could be struggling this time around.

Smith's food team has reduced its estimate of prospective earnings growth for the sector from 10 per cent to 8 per cent. It says most of them will find it difficult to improve margins after a slow start to the year. Mr Timothy Potter, an analyst at Smith, said: "We have done a post-mortem job on prospects. They will still show some resilience, but progress will be slower."

He has reduced his profit estimates on most companies, including Hillsdown, 5p lower at 262p, and Cadbury Schweppes, 10p cheaper at 343p.

Unigate has had its forecast for 1990 downgraded by £10 million to £100 million because of problems at its Wincanton wheels division. UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, has also downgraded its estimate for Unigate, leaving the shares 8p lower at 312p.

The rest of the equity market spent a nervous session, with investors again rooted firmly on the sidelines before this week's US bond market auction. There have been increasing fears that the Japanese will give the auction

a wide berth. As a result, an opening 25-point fall on Wall Street added to the gloom in London, where prices closed at the worst levels of the day. The FT-SE 100 index fell 27.3 points to 2,321.1 in thin trading, which saw only 406 million shares change hands. The market is expected to test the 2,300 level today. The narrower FT Index of 30 shares dropped 25.4 to 1,835.6.

A stronger pound left Government securities sporting gains of about 2%.

Sears, the Selfridges and Savile Row stores to Freemasons' mail order group, held steady at 100p amid heavy turnover of the shares. By the close of business, more than 11 million shares had been traded. House Govett crossed a buyer

United Newspapers, publisher of the *Daily Express* and the *Star*, fell 6p to 404p. A parcel of 2.5 million shares has been placed jointly by Cazenove and UBS Phillips & Drew, at about 400p. Mr Conrad Black, publisher of the *Daily Telegraph*, owns 9 per cent.

with a seller of 3 million shares.

The group recently announced plans for a restructuring of its footwear business, while admitting it was the holder of 2 per cent of rival Next.

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SA gold shares shine as London price holds firm

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

South African gold shares topped international investors' shopping lists again with further strong rises across the board.

Dealers said it was general excitement about the outlook for the gold price rather than political developments which had encouraged another wave of interest, and that price rises had been partly accentuated by scrip shortages.

Among the heavyweights, Anglo was £44 higher at £764; Vaal Reefs crossed the £80 a share mark for a £2 rise; and Southval rose from £344 to £36.

Medium-priced shares were also in demand, with Harmony 56p higher at 810p, Elsander up from 68p to

731p, and Loraine 30p up at 309p.

International gold shares were generally helped by the continued strength of the London gold price. Though it was weaker on its overnight close and finished the day slightly weaker at \$421.25 (£247.35) an ounce, the fact that gold stayed above the \$420 an ounce level gave the market confidence.

Some consolidation in the gold price is widely expected, though chartists point to an early challenge to the \$425 an ounce level — while giving a warning that it "may well heave and puff before getting there."

South African gold shares started to step back into the

investment arena when it became clear in January that political developments were about to release Nelson Mandela.

London analysts said that international funds and fresh investors are making inquiries every day about the South African market, which has been internationally shunned by all but the brave for a number of years.

Meanwhile, international investors are waiting for South African political hopes to be translated into realities — and also for a clearer indication of African National Congress economic policies. Recent calls for "nationalization of banks and parts of the SA mining industry" are still ringing decidedly in their ears.

Ahead of such developments, a number of investors fully prepared to assume the

Garston cash put on deals in shares

By Nell Bennett

Substantial amounts of investors' money in Garston Amburst, the collapsed insurance agent, was illicitly diverted into share dealing through Laurence Keen, the stockbroker.

Mr Jim O'Neill, a fund manager at Keen, said that Garston Amburst dealt regularly with his clients.

"They bought hundreds of different things," he said.

He refused to say how much money was involved, but said that the company's share trading was erratic.

Garston was a tied agent of National Financial Management Corporation, an offshoot of the TSB Group. Under the Financial Services Act, it was authorized only to sell NFMC policies. However, since the company went into liquidation last month, it has emerged that it was managing its own unauthorized fund.

Mr O'Neill said that Keen had done business with Garston since it believed that it was regulated by Luton, the life assurance organization.

Up to 300 Garston investors stand to lose up to £20 million in the unauthorized fund, although NFMC has guaranteed the investments of the 1,300 people who bought NFMC products. The Serious Fraud Office is investigating the company.

Garston also put money in a high-interest account in the Lewisham branch of Barclays.

Mr David Shaw, the Conservative MP, is urging the Department of Trade and Industry to question Sir John Quinton, the bank chairman, about the account. Mr Shaw has also asked the DTI to find out whether any of the unauthorized fund was sent abroad.

It emerged yesterday that some Garston investors were also clients of Barlow Clowes' gifts fund. Mr Shaw is pressing the DTI to investigate any links between the firms.

Securiguard has won what it claims is the biggest single security contract in Britain — the £2.4 million London Decklands contract.

In the US, turnover more than doubled to £17.8 million and with the acquisition of Madison Building Services since the year-end, US turnover will represent 30 per cent of the whole in the current year.

Group earnings per share rose 23 per cent to 24.6p.

Temps, page 24

Security minded: Alan Baldwin claims record sized contract

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES**Slide continues**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 29. Dealings end on Friday. Contango day is Monday. Settlement day is February 19.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.
(VOLUMES PAGE 26)

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3	Sharpe & Fisher	Industrials L-R		
4	Menzies	Property		
5	Brixton	Motors/Aircraft		
6	Lez	Drapery, Stores		
7	Hogg Robinson Plc	Property		
8	Warner	Chemicals, Plas.		
9	Caird Gp	Drapery, Stores		
10	T & S Stores	Building Roads		
11	Lovell (Y)	Industrial S-2		
12	Taco	Building Roads		
13	Arachid	Newspaper, Pub.		
14	Brisco	Industrial S-L		
15	Garton Eng	Property		
16	Rockford	Electricals		
17	Terriss	Transport		
18	TNT	Industrials S-Z		
19	Scots & Robertson	Banking, Discount		
20	Chancery	Textiles		
21	CRT Gp	Industrials S-Z		
22	Willis (James)	Textiles		
23	Trinity Ind	Newspaper, Pub.		
24	TIP Europe	Transport		
25	Baggsende Brick	Building Roads		
26	Hambros	Banks, Discount		
27	Powergen	Industrials L-R		
28	Countrywide	Building Roads		
29	Thorntons	Foods		
30	BVI	Industrials A-D		
31	Wace	Paper, Print, Adv.		
32	BPP	Newspaper, Pub.		
33	Thames TV	Leisure		
34	Staggs Ind	Industrials S-Z		
35	Quicks Group	Motors/Aircraft		
36	Coastal	Industrials A-D		
37	Haywood Williams	Building Roads		
38	Tottenham Hotspur	Leisure		
39	Frogmore	Property		
40	Appleby Hedges	Foods		
41	Spirax-Sarco	Industrials S-Z		
42	Syntex	Industrials S-Z		
43	Aviva Pet	OLCs		
44	Smith David	Paper, Print, Adv.		
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High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

UNDATED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

O-Z

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

OILS, GAS

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TRANSPORT

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend

WATER

High	Low	Stock
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

The language of prints

Printmakers are no longer at the bottom of the artistic hierarchy, Huon Mallalieu reports

There are probably as many arguments over taste as there are people with claims to connoisseurship and scholarly expertise. The art world is a Babylon in which there are few polyglots. The lover of Old Master drawings speaks a different language from that of the English watercolour enthusiast, let alone the devotee of Op Art, the admirer of Japanese prints or the votary of Byzantine icons.

For connoisseurs of the past there was a hierarchy of esteem running down from the Old Masters to the lowly printmakers.

Artists tend to appreciate prints for their own sake, for study, or as a means of making still more money out of a popular painting. Occasionally, too, as proven by Hogarth, or the craze for modern etchings in the 1920s, a wider public can be persuaded to take them seriously.

For several years print collectors have had a regular treat in the London Original Print Fair, which brings 25 or so of the leading dealers together at Burlington House in December. This can be seen as a gesture of atonement from the Royal Academy for the first century of its existence, when it denied membership to engravers.

Any visitor to that fair will be struck by the variety on offer,



Horse sense: mezzotint engraving from a painting by George Stubbs, in the exhibition at Ackermann from February 14 to March 7, from Dürer woodcuts and Rembrandt etchings to screen prints by way of sporting aquatints and 18th-century *contre-preuves*. The "Original" in the title is most important, since these are prints produced by the artists themselves, or under their direction. There is no place for mechanically coloured reproductions masquerading as "artist's proofs" on the strength of pencil signatures.

And it is not all black and white, although for many people black and white will always be best. The fair, which has participants from overseas, only concentrates on what is available all year round. In London at present there are several worthwhile print shows,

and there will be a number of print auctions during the coming month. The Heim Gallery in Jermyn Street has just closed an impressive show drawn from one of the best contemporary collections of 18th-century British prints, but welcomes inquiries (01-493 0688). For those in search of a contemporary British printmaker, Agnew's, 43 Old Bond Street (01-629 6176) will be showing etchings and lithographs by John Copely from February 21 to March 16.

Although he died in 1925 Louis Corinth is very much a "modern" artist, and as the catalogue of the show at Garton European Prints, First Floor, 39-42 New Bond Street, (01-493 2202) puts it: "some of his paintings [and several of his prints] may have to await another generation's accolade, because of their allegorical subject matter". There are nudes and figures, and a number of lithographed landscapes reminiscent of Gainsborough drawings. There is also a touching contrast between his confident 1904 self-portrait with his wife (£1,250), and the careworn image of himself in "Death and the Artist" from the "Dance of Death" series of 1922 (£5,000 for the set of five). This last price reflects the fact that only two are signed.

Sporting prints are a different language again, and there are two London shows opening in February. From February 21 to March

7 the Schuster Gallery, Maddox Street (01-491 2208) has a set of the "Oriental Field Sports", 1807, aquatinted by Samuel Howitt after drawings by Captain T. Williamson. Later in March the gallery will be showing prints from the Boydell Shakespeare project of 1803.

The other sporting exhibition is at Ackermann in New Bond Street from February 14 to March 17. It covers British sporting and country life from 1750 to 1880, including more homey work by Howitt and by his better-known brother-in-law, Thomas Rowlandson. Hunting and racing scenes by the Alken family will be much in evidence, and there will be a number of rare boxing prints. The earliest prints are three from a set of seven line engravings after paintings by John Wootton, published in 1770. Among the latest are four hunting aquatints after John Sturges published in 1878. Prices range from £200 to £8,000.

Lovers of botanical prints might prefer the sale of 19th and 20th-century prints at Christie's, South Kensington on March 7, which concludes the collection from Dr Thornton's great *Temple of Flora*, published from 1799 to 1807. Prices range from £200 to £3,000.

Until March 3 Scottish print lovers can visit "The Art of the Print", from the 15th to the 18th centuries at the Hunterian Art Gallery of Glasgow University.

ON SHOW, ON SALE

The following is a list of antique and collectable exhibitions and sales from February 7 to March 7. Auctions start at 11am unless otherwise stated.

To Feb 8: Shropshire Antiques Fair, Lion Hotel, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury (05474 464). To Feb 10: Antiques for Business Fair, Business Design Centre, NJ (01-441 8540). To Feb 10: Watercolours by R.V. Pitchforth, David Messum, 34 St George St, W1 (01-408 0243). To Feb 16: Gambolino's great sculpture Fata Morgana. Alex Wengraf, 59-60 Jermyn St, SW1 (01-852 4552). To Feb 17: Young contemporary painters, Anna-Mei Chadwick, 64 New King's Rd, SW6 (01-736 1928).

Feb 8, 2pm: Ephemera sale, including Valentines, Christie's, South Kensington, Old Brompton Road, SW7 (01-581 7611). Feb 8, 10.30am: Arms and medals sale, Sotheby's, Bond Street, W1 (01-493 8888). Feb 8, 2.30pm: Sale of Collector's cars, Brooks by the Donington International Exhibition Centre, Derbyshire (0332 812912). Feb 9: Fine art and antiques sale, Andrew Grant, The Grandstand, Worcester Racecourse (0905 357547). Feb 9-11: Stafford Giant Antiques Fair, Bingley Hall, County Showground (0532 843333). Feb 9-11: South-East Counties Antique Dealers' Fair, Goodwood House, West Sussex (0937 632029). Feb 9-12: International Silver & Jewellery Fair and Seminar, Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, W1 (01-5474 464). Mar 1-3: Warwickshire County Antiques Fair, County Cricket Ground, Edgbaston, Birmingham (021 743 2259). Mar 2: Sale of bird paintings, Christie's, King Street, SW1. Mar 6: Early ceramics sale, Sotheby's Bond Street, W1.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Satellite TV wars go to the movies

Broadcasting star wars are about to start in earnest with the imminent arrival of BSkyB to challenge the one-year-old Sky. Both sides see movies as the heaviest artillery. This is how they hope to gain and secure new ground to be turned into tangible value, through the prize of subscription movies. Once fully charged out, each side will be wanting around £10 per month from a satellite household, so on this level there is little to choose between them.

When it comes to the matter of on-air viewer appeal, there are claims and counter-claims. BSkyB's Anthony Simonds-Gooding says of Rupert Murdoch's Sky, "We will have better movies, and this is our main card." Murdoch, by way of reply, loses no opportunity to tick off BSkyB for bidding up the price satellite paid to get at the movies, but does not concede the main point. If there is a "film gap", it would seem to be of a smallish order. When pressed, even BSkyB propagandists claim no more than a 60-40 advantage, not of itself enough for BSkyB to deliver a knock-out blow.

Television has always relied heavily on movies. Cinema-going may have fallen away in the Fifties as television viewing spread, but the appetite for movies did not die. It simply moved across from one

venue to another. Even though cineastes argue that the small-screen habit underplays film's potential, literally cutting it down to television size, the majority of us remain unabashed. Most of the time we settle happily for the small-screen experience.

Sky and BSkyB will get movies to us faster than do the established broadcasters of BBC, ITV and Channel 4. That is the basis of their special attraction and their special charge. The model comes from the United States, where Home Box Office set the pattern, and other competitive subscription services followed. Increasingly though, in both countries, watchful attention has had to be paid to the interventions of a third force, in the shape of the video-store.

Video-viewing in Britain is now a well-established business. Part of its appeal is in permitting easy time-shift when ordinary schedules get crowded; part, perhaps the greater part, is as a short-cut into the most recent cinema offerings. Crucially, the video-shop will get you the movie not only faster than ordinary television, but faster than satellite too. The "wind-down", as they say in the trade, usually go in this order: cinema release, video

release, pay-satellite release, ordinary television release. What's more, those of us addicted to the video habit will have noted that with a video you can stop, start, make coffee, kick the cat all in your own time. Broadcasters, and this includes satellite broadcasters, offer you the film at a fixed time, for continuous and settled viewing.

Satellite operators say they will overcome this "own-time" difficulty by offering films in staggered pattern, perhaps around half a dozen times within a month. You can then make your own most convenient date. But, of course, this heavy repeat pattern itself trims the appeal of the overall service to those who would prefer a constant intake of movies that are both recent and different.

Satellite operators like to shrug off the video factor. Their line is anything that increases the profile of the movies eventually works to the advantage of all. So, cinema-going is increasing alongside the rise in home video-viewing. So may it be with satellite. And Sky reports heavy demand from dish-owners to stay with Sky movies, as it translates from free to paid service. So far, there seems to be little holding back, even though 90 per cent of Sky viewers have videos too.

And yet there is a nagging doubt. Both

Sky and BSkyB are seeking 2.5 to three million viewers for break-even comfort, and more for decent profitability. Together they aspire to penetrate roughly one in three UK homes, and within a couple of years. Somewhere along this line, as they try to move the beach-head out beyond the early pioneers, may they not yet run into trouble at the video barrier? Will the streetwise habitué of the video-store be eager to pass over £10 a month for another chance to see films he has already seen or will he prefer to keep that money to stay abreast of the new?

There's an interesting item in a recent *Wall Street Journal* study, telling us that 36 per cent of Americans now rate renting a video best value for leisure money, whereas only 12 per cent put subscription television top of the leisure list. This may prove true too in Britain, where the video habit is even more deeply entrenched. The first key encounter of the satellite age may be less between one satellite operator and the other, more between either or both and the obstruction to satellite advance presented by the well dug-in third force of video.

New uses are being found for the photographs that made *Picture Post* famous. Andrew Lycett reports



Hi-tech plans for classic prints: David Watts, whose hopes for the 23 million images in the Hulton Deutsch Collection include T-shirts and storage on video disc

Gold in them thar stills?

W

hen Brian Deutsch, the cable television entrepreneur, beat off competition from Robert Maxwell and others to buy 12 million photographs and assorted images from the BBC in May 1988, something was clearly afoot. The prints and negatives made up the Hulton Picture Library, started in 1947 by Edward Hulton, publisher of *Picture Post*, Britain's most successful news photographic magazine, and sold to the BBC 11 years later.

They included work for *Picture Post* by such celebrated photographers as Bert Hardy and Grace Robertson, as well as additional historical material, such as Studio Lisa's intimate portraits of royalty from 1936 to 1954, and Baron Sacha's theatrical shots from the same period.

Deutsch, whose cable interests include Westminster Cable Company in London, acquired the collection after the BBC decided it was not part of its core business. Brushing aside protests that it was "selling the family silver" — for an estimated £1 million to £2 million — the corporation negotiated a series of safeguards with Deutsch, which included continuing and preferential access for the BBC itself. It was agreed that the library would

not be sold abroad, and a board of directors, including Lord Quinton, chairman of the British Library, was set up to oversee its running.

Nearly two years later the Hulton library has grown to an estimated 23 million images, following Deutsch's acquisition of Keystone — a similar but more news-based collection of historical photographs — from *Picture Post*, Britain's most successful news photographic magazine, and sold to the BBC 11 years later.

Deutsch has spent an undisclosed sum rehousing the two collections in a pair of warehouses off the Harrow Road in west London. The negatives are now held in a climatically controlled part of the complex. Although the man hours still needed can hardly be contemplated, work has begun on indexing and preservation. Now the Hulton Deutsch Collection, as it has been renamed, is ready to be marketed to its full capacity.

Last summer, however, the collection's smooth transformation was threatened. Peter Elliott, the managing director, resigned, as did Roger Wemyss-Brooks, the picture director, and Ken Lewis, the general manager. Wemyss-Brooks recalls: "Following a series of board meetings in the early summer, we were told we were not coming up to scratch and our Ameri-

cans investors were not happy. The crunch came in the early summer when I was asked to increase our sales targets by 65 per cent. I protested vehemently."

Elliott says: "They wanted it finance-led rather than picture-led."

For his part, Deutsch says the three who left were "very good chaps, but not businessmen". In their stead came David Watts, aged 42, the former editor of *Whick!*, the Consumer Association magazine.

This kind of talk approaches the hi-tech new media world envisaged by Deutsch when he purchased the library. He talks of "putting 10,000 images on a video disc", and used by picture editors. He wants to introduce military-tested computer technology which, within moments, can pick out a picture from thousands of others. In the future, customers will be able to use a video terminal to choose photographs from the library and have them transmitted down a telephone line.

The intention is that the Hulton Deutsch Collection will become a pictorial data bank which can be accessed by telephone, in much the same way as the *Financial Times* Profile system operates for text. Considerable investment will still be required by both Hulton and its clients, however.

images to a much wider range of products, such as T-shirts. With his publishing background, he hopes to get the archive material into more books. There are plans for television programmes (including a quiz show) based on Hulton material and, given Deutsch's interests, proposals for an interactive cable link, which would allow cable television viewers to purchase merchandise by telephone.

"Japanese companies are interested in buying the collection," says Deutsch. "The Japanese are interested in buying the collection."

These are conclusions reached by Andrew Lycett, who has been writing for *Picture Post* since 1988. He is a former editor of *Picture Post* and a regular contributor to *Financial Times*.

He is also a member of the *Financial Times* Profile team, which provides data for the *FT* website.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Full of eastern promise?

Suspicious European buyers often view Japanese products as down-market. Nicola Chapman explains how new marketing attitudes are being forced on to the East

Many Europeans consider the Japanese over-potite, over-worked and resigned to a poor standard of living. Japanese products are regarded as mass-produced rather than up-market — a potential marketing nightmare for a nation intent on world domination.

These are among the conclusions in a report published this week by HDM Horner Collis & Kirvan, the advertising agency part-owned by Dentsu, Japan's biggest advertising agency.

"Japanese Brands Balancing Heritage and Expertise," a study of European attitudes to



companies such as Sony and Toshiba are widely acknowledged to have won recognition in the UK, other Japanese hi-fi brands have not been so lucky. Sony believes its marketing has succeeded because it has tried not to be seen as a Japanese concern. "We don't class ourselves as a Japanese company and we don't promote ourselves as being Japanese," a Sony spokesman says.

Gold Greenless Trot, the advertising agency behind the "Hello Tosh" advertisements for Toshiba, also realized that to promote the brand it had first to familiarize the British with the Toshiba name. "In order to become big players in international brands, the

Japanese are having to cast off their Japanese-ness," Mike Greenless, the joint chairman, explains.

Hostile attitudes to Japan — already prevalent in parts of the United States and Australia, where there is an aversion to Japanese goods — are not the only reasons why Japanese companies should reconsider their strategies, says Marco Rimini, the compiler of the report. But to avoid similar antagonism in the UK, he believes Japanese companies will have to adopt promotional strategies highlighting the economic and employment benefits they bring.

However, companies such as Hitachi, Mitsubishi and

Aiwa could be held back because they lack individual identities and prestige.

Rimini says: "The problem the Japanese have is that people think of their products being produced by robots rather than white-haired old men in aprons. This is a handicap in many areas such as fashion, service sectors and luxury cars."

"People also see Japanese goods as expendable. They buy a hi-fi or a video and a couple of years later it is dated. People see Japanese goods as things you can flog for a couple of years and then throw out. People don't love Japanese products in the way that you would love and look

after an expensive pen, or a beautiful Italian sports car."

To cultivate a more up-market image, some Japanese companies have embarked on marketing programmes to sell more luxurious products. Honda, for instance, is introducing sports cars in the US, but HDM estimates that many Japanese brands still suffer from having too few characteristics that could appeal to westerners. One reason, Rimini explains, is that Japanese businessmen still believe rigidly that a new product must have a technological advantage over its rivals before it can be introduced.

In Europe, however, this is now deemed as less important than what is known in marketing as a unique selling proposition, based on emotional values. By concentrating more heavily on advertising old-fashioned Japanese attributes, Japanese companies might gain higher UK sales, the report argues.

As if anticipating this, many Japanese companies operating in Britain are reviewing their marketing and advertising strategies and are looking for UK-based advertising agencies to devise European campaigns.

The Japanese airline ANA is in touch with a number of agencies, and Mitsubishi has recently budgeted £1.5 million for a television advertising campaign featuring in cars through the Generator advertising agency.

A spokesman for Generator says: "More and more Japanese companies are taking a westernized approach to marketing and advertising using locally-based firms. We did attitudinal research and concluded that the company needed to put across a more cohesive message."

Pop goes the test-tube . . .

Can a science programme challenge *EastEnders* in the soap ratings?

Science on television is making efforts to come out of the test-tube. Channel 4's irreverent new science magazine, *4th Dimension*, comes complete with stand-up comedians and rock music. And later this month, Yorkshire Television launches a new science documentary series, *Science Fiction*, on ITN opposite *EastEnders*. Yorkshire likes to think of the series as a collection of B-movies — "cheaply produced, with a clear narrative, simple style, contemporary subjects, a few strong characters" — with unwieldy scientific facts kept firmly at bay.

Duncan Dallas, Yorkshire's head of science, says it's essential that they get the science right. But all the same, calls the episodes "soaps", and to prove he is serious he has drafted in *Brookside's* Phil Redmond to produce four of them.

The BBC is also stirring. *Horizon* has appointed a new editor, Jana Bennett, to start in June, and this week Kate Bellingham, fresh from BBC engineering, will appear on *Tomorrow's World* for the first time. *Tomorrow's World* has lost approximately one million of its average 10 million audience in the past year. *Outsiders* view the shake-up, under Graham Massey, head of science and features, as an attempt to stem the decline. The changes have done little to quell anxiety over programme axings in the BBC's science department.

The possibility of which Richard Reisz, editor of *Tomorrow's World*, makes no bones. "When you have programmes like *Horizon* and *Tomorrow's World*, two of the longest running programmes on the BBC, you clearly need to be asking, 'Is this what we want to be doing, are we doing it right, should we be doing something different, should we be doing it at all?'"

Caroline Thomson, commissioning editor for finance, industry and science

for Channel 4, dates the first signs of change to 1985, when the BBC's award-winning docu-drama *Life Story* demonstrated that science and drama were compatible.

She says: "One of the features of the Eighties has been that people have begun to understand that science and technology are an integral part of Britain's success or failure and that television hasn't been covering them awfully well."

"Producers have begun to realize that science should be treated much like any other subject. It can be turned into drama but equally it can be a subject for argument and debate." Yorkshire's Duncan Dallas throws doubt on the conventional view that programmes such as *Horizon* and *Tomorrow's World* must be a success because they have been running for years. "To me, they are old-fashioned. *Tomorrow's World*, which was initially just a gee-whiz type of programme, has to its great credit tried to come out of that format but finds it very difficult to criticize technology."

Reisz acknowledges the criticism, but vehemently denies the charge that others have stolen a march on the BBC. They don't need outsiders to read them the riot act, he says. All of it has been thoroughly aired within the BBC.

A lot of producers in this department feel that we have been too close to the science establishment and that we shouldn't be."

New programmes in the pipeline include *Rough Medicine* on BBC2, which will focus on cases of medical malpractice, and *Life Styles*, a mass-appeal BBC1 consumer science magazine in the planning stage. What we won't be seeing, Reisz insists, is an end to the BBC specialist science programmes. All that is needed, he suggests, is a broader mix.

Angela Brooks

The Sunday sales gamble

The Independent on Sunday, the newest contender in the heavyweight weekly market, is counting the cost of an unusual wholesale deal

The new *Independent on Sunday* is employing a byzantine and costly method of boosting sales during the first three months of its launch. The ruse involves a deal with wholesalers that guarantees them payment for 90 per cent of the papers ordered, whether they are sold or not. Any shortfall in sales below the 90 per cent will be paid at the exact equivalent of the normal 10 per cent value of any copy of a paper sold: 6p. This 6p is to be designated as a "haulage fee".

Because of the high volume of its initial print run — 1.2 million in the first week and just under 1 million in the second — the offer has already cost the *IOS* dear. The paper sold 740,000 of its launch issue, which leaves more than £20,000 to be paid

to the wholesalers. With last Sunday's sale estimated at 580,000, the bill is also going to be substantial. Brian Hunt, the *IOS*' circulation manager, admits that the offer to wholesalers could be costly, but insists that having reserved the right to limit supply to the trade, the paper will now be able to control the sums it pays out. "We took a gamble on the first issue, but we went into it with our eyes open."

Nick Shott, chief executive of *The Sunday Correspondent*, which has been hardest hit by the arrival of the *IOS*, reckons the offer could be counter-productive, giving wholesalers little incentive to sell if they know they will earn 6p a copy on unsold stock. "Without casting aspersions, it does give opportunities to the wholesaler with an eye to the main chance," he says.

Hunt argues, however, that wholesalers will not stand to gain by

sellers to flood retail outlets with copies of the paper must also be hard to resist. One London newsagent reported last week that instead of halving his initial order of 150 copies as requested, his wholesaler doubled the order for the second week. "My customers couldn't get into the shop because of the huge piles of unsold copies," he said.

Hunt argues, however, that wholesalers will not stand to gain by

ordering extra copies: "It will cost them more in handling costs, processing the papers, and sending them out to retailers than what they make on unsold stock," he says.

The wholesalers themselves are reluctant to discuss the offer. Len Bull, chairman of the London division of the Association of Newspaper and Magazine Wholesalers, agrees that the first *IOS* print run was "ambitious".

Sandra North

Ogilvy & Mather, the advertising agency, has not made any staff in London redundant, as was incorrectly stated in *Media & Marketing* on January 10.

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The Head of Design of British Telecom is seeking a Personal Secretary.

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Continued From Previous Page
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You will have had at least two years' experience at senior director level and be confident when dealing with senior people and VIPs. The pace of work is fast and you should have the ability to work calmly and efficiently under pressure. The Chief Executive is a non-smoker and therefore non-smoking candidates would be preferred. The salary will reflect the responsibility of the position and the degree of commitment required.

Please write with CV and daytime telephone number to:

Vicky Hemming
Personnel and Administration Manager
TVS
60 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6AU.
Reference Number: 310190

Closing date: 16th February 1990.

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Mayfair Recruitment (W1) Ltd, The Systems Centre, 19
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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**High Spirits SW1 to £14,000**

Cheer yourself up when you join this super drinks company working for one of its European Marketing Executives. He is in his late 20s, very busy and always travelling. You will have to be energetic, confident and well organised as you liaise with clients in Europe, organise extensive travel and diary arrangements and act on your own initiative. 50 wpm copy typing/wp. French useful. Age: 20-25. Please call Lynne Dawson on 01-437 6032.

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Susan Beck

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*****007*** £21,500 + Bonus + Perks******21,500 + Bonus + Perks******Perks***

Working jointly for the MD and Admin Manager you will be required to provide secretarial support for this very up-to-date and dynamic company. Dealing with clients, organising meetings, lunches, travel and many other tasks. You will also be involved in typing and using a computer. You will receive a generous package of benefits.

Susan Beck

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Calling all Early Birds. Two senior executives within a finance company in EC2 need a secretary to run the office on oiled wheels.

Working in a beautiful new building, your feet will not touch the ground as you set up the office systems, arrange numerous lunches and provide full secretarial support. Fast accurate shorthand (100+) and typing are essential, plus the ability to draft all correspondence. Hours will be from 8am to 4.30pm. If you are aged 30+ with senior level experience, beat the rush and telephone Anna Martin on 588 3535.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Savoir-Flair to £20,000

Our client, a private banking concern with wide-spread international interests, is headed up by two high-profile City figures. Due to re-structuring, they now require an experienced PA to provide efficient and enthusiastic back-up.

Priority to confidential aspects of the group's operations, discretion is absolutely paramount. Faultless presentation is also crucial, plus the confidence to liaise daily with prestigious City names. Excellent secretarial skills (100)/audio/WP) and at least three years' experience in a financial environment are required.

Please telephone Sabina Stewart on 01 588 3535.

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ADVANCE TO MAYFAIR**FLOATING SECRETARY £13,000 + excl. bens**

Pick and choose your department in this well established property co in Mayfair. Assist in all departments when necessary and when the position that you want becomes available the choice is yours. Good audio typing is necessary for this position as is a pleasant telephone manner and outgoing personality.

CLIENT LIAISON

Prestigious property company based in the West End seeks a well educated Audio Secretary to work for 2 Surveyors, accurate typing is a must, as is a good sense of humour. As well as the usual secretarial duties you will arrange in-house lunches and get to meet senior clients.

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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman

Hammering sales home

Auctions of residential property are not normally for ordinary people. In a difficult market, however, experiments must be tried, and Curchod & Co, a firm of chartered surveyors and auctioneers in Weybridge, Surrey, last week joined forces with the Walton-on-Thames branch of the Halifax Building Society to hold an "easy auction" of "cancellable properties" in the area specifically aimed at the ordinary buyer.

All the properties for sale could be viewed before the auction, all had been inspected by qualified local valuers, and legal searches had been done, so that prospective purchasers knew the properties would be acceptable for loans from the building society.

The bidding system was made as painless and straightforward as possible, and for those people able to buy (unencumbered by chains) the process offered a certain transaction. A successful bidder on February 1 would be able to move in on March 1 without fear that the vendor might withdraw or that a chain might break.

Bridge Farm, near Ainsty, West Sussex, is a fine old farmhouse set in undulating wooded farmland out of sight of other properties. Originating in the 14th century, the main part dates from the 15th century, with an oak timber frame, mainly of brick under a Horsham stone and tile roof.

The house has been modernized with three reception rooms, six bedrooms, and a detached three-room cottage. Outbuildings include a garage,

Auctions are aiming to attract ordinary house-hunters with easy bargain buys

and purchasers had to put down a deposit of only 5 per cent, subject to a maximum of £7,500, with that sum offered as an unsecured loan by the Halifax.

The outcome of the auction suggests that the property market recovery is patchy, or that people lacked the confidence to go ahead by this method. Ian Oswin, the auctioneer, succeeded in knocking down only two of the 24 properties on offer during the auction. Nearly 1,000 people had been informed of the occasion, and some 200 crowded into the auction room, but Oswin believes that while many were genuinely interested in buying they may have been uncertain about the way to proceed.

That view is supported by the fact that after the auction had ended, some 30 people made further inquiries about the properties, and half a dozen

more sales were made. Oswin admitted that they did not sell as many of the properties as they had hoped, but insisted that the auction was a success.

The indications are that people still lack confidence in the market, but they are also not sure about auction procedures. But the majority of the properties had interest shown in them, and we will probably hold another auction along similar lines."

Prudential Property Services was holding its first auction of 1990 this week, with a 70-lot catalogue offering land and property worth around £5 million. Auctioneer Anthony Proctor predicts that this spring will prove to be a good time to buy, with prices depressed. "Those people who invested in 1974 and 1975, when interest rates were high and prices had fallen, have enjoyed remarkable capital appreciation. Many of those

investors are entering the market again, and there seems little doubt that property bought now will be the best hedge against inflation during the coming years."

The next auction by the agents Allsopp & Co takes place in London next week, offering 163 lots producing an income of more than £2.3 million a year. It will reflect an increasing trend of recent months, the sale of unwanted properties by local authorities and other statutory bodies. The vendors include several county councils, British Telecom and the former London Education Authority; the properties were originally private homes, and are unmodernised.

Some have not been lived in for years, and have been converted for a variety of uses including telephone exchanges and an abortion; most have planning consent to revert to residential use.

Among the lots, the cheapest is a telephone exchange in Buckinghamshire which, if demolished, will provide a building plot of 2,200 sq ft yours for around £15,000.



A rare market offering

Walnut Tree House at Middlebury, King's Stanley, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, is a Grade II listed Georgian house set in seven acres. This elegant house has been modernized, but retains its character with features such as shuttered windows. It has three reception rooms, two bedroom suites and four other bedrooms, and there is a guest cottage, stable yard and outbuildings. The grounds include walled gardens and four paddocks. Adrian Thompson of Stratton & Parker's Moreton-in-Marsh office anticipates considerable interest, given the rarity of good Georgian properties on the market. The asking price is around £600,000.

IN THE MARKET

recreation room and an office. The five-acre grounds include a tennis court and a small lake.

Cluttons' country house department and its Haywards Heath office are asking for offers around £675,000.

• Old Rectory at Denver, near Downham Market, Norfolk, dates from the early 1600s, with its front portion added in 1710. The house has a pine

panelling hall and retains its ash windows and shutters.

Standing on one acre, it has eight bedrooms, and when the railway line to Liverpool Street is electrified later this year, London will be within 90 minutes' travelling time. The property's price is £300,000 through Jackson-Stops & Staff's Newmarket office.

• Picton House is an impos-

ing listed 18th-century house with a frontage on to the historic High Street in the Cotswold village of Broadway, Worcestershire.

Built of mellow Cotswold stone, it is set back behind stone walls, and has for the past 40 years been occupied in the main as fine art galleries and showrooms.

The first and second floors

comprise a self-contained apartment, with two reception rooms, study, two bedroom suites and five other bedrooms.

Outside there is a walled garden and a kitchen garden.

Andrew Grant of Worcester, and Jackson-Stops & Staff's Chipping Camden office, describe it as an important retail, commercial and residential property, and give a guide price of £280,000.

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A fading tennis player reveals how she somehow retains her appetite for combat

Durie still passionate to play

Auckland
Oh, you'll like Jo Durie, tennis people always say. She's so very nice... and then, after a significant pause, they add: "Perhaps too nice." They mean, too nice to win tennis matches.

In recent weeks, she has lost in the second round of the Australian Open, and in the quarter-finals of the New Zealand Open here in Auckland. She used to be No. 5 in the world; she will be 30 this year and is now ranked 118.

And she is nice all right. No disputing that; it was a pleasure to sit and talk tennis with her. But I am not sure I go along with the thesis that you have to be nasty to win. I expect it is propaganda put out by nasty people. I have talked to plenty of sports people: say, Steve Davis and Lucinda Green, both very big winners indeed, and you couldn't wish to meet more pleasant, more generous-natured people.

But Durie is nice, and she loses such a lot of matches. Even when she wins, she puts her poor audience through it. How many match points did it take you to win your first-round match in Melbourne, Jo?" I had eight, and she played unbelievably on them all, and I thought, I'm just not destined to win today, and I won, and I was up here, you know, and then you think, for heaven's sake, it is only one match, you need to win another seven to win a grand slam tournament."

She really suffers out there on the tennis court. If Merv Hughes is a parody of an Australian cricketer, surely Durie is the perfect caricature of a female English tennis player. She can hit the ball all right, she can play shots just as well as anyone. Apart from when it is match point, of course. It is playing matches she finds so difficult. Every match she plays is punctuated by double faults in big games, screches of anguish, and the loud, bitter tellings-off she gives herself. There is nothing easy about being Jo Durie.

"Last year was particularly awful," she said. "I was injured, shoulder and back, but I was so desperate to play I only took two weeks off, came back, got injured again, trying to play matches, getting emotionally distraught, telling myself 'I've got to play, got to play' — oh, it was stupid."

Durie finished the year with a couple of good wins in the European Cup, and feels in better physical shape than she has done for a while. "Before I was panting after a five-stroke

Simon Barnes

rally, and that sort of thing really does *crucify* you." Every tennis match is a *Via Dolorosa* for Durie. And this year began with the kind of inauspiciousness in which she rather specializes: for the first time for about 10 years, she had to play a qualifying match before she could play in the main tournament, one that took place in Sydney. It was a measure of how far she has slipped.

"Oh, that was *hugely* I was so

nervous, so desperate to go straight through, that I lost in three sets. It was a pretty awful match. It wasn't very nice. I had said to myself, 'You've

got to play qualifiers, all right,

go out and play them... but

once you're there, for the first

time in years... it's tough."

So why the hell does she put

herself through all this? "Well,

I have been getting frustrated.

I have been ranked five in the

world, I've won tournaments.

When you've been there and

you know you can do it, it is

frustrating being ranked 118,

and losing to A. N. Other. At

times, I've been a bit self-

pitying, which is something I

despise. I try to get out of it,

and then I find I'm sinking,

why *meeee?*

"I try so hard. And then I

said, 'If you don't start enjoy-

ing your tennis, Jo,' I said,

'then you're not bloody play-

ing any more.' Why put

yourself through? It's stupid!"

"But I still do it. I suppose I

do it because I get such a buzz.

It's like a drug. You are out

there and performing, and

appreciating what you do. I

love that. I absolutely love that

... playing in front of people,

even when I'm bad. You go

away on a playing trip for

maybe six weeks, you get tired

and jaded, especially if you

don't do so well, and you think,

"I'd like to go home now".

And I'm home for five days,

and it's what's *that* I do!

I can't wait to be off again. I

won't ever drag myself around

the circuit, but as long as I still

get that buzz..."

So what, then, is the dif-

ference between Durie now

and the Durie of 1983, when

she was creaming everyone in

sight? "There is a huge dif-

ference in my tennis — I'm a

much better player than I was

when I was No. 5. I was 23, I

was on a roll, and I couldn't

believe what was going on I

Return to sender: Durie demonstrates the poise that once elevated her to No. 5 in the world

dodgy matches, but I hap-

pened to win them. It just kept

flowing.

"It's comparatively easy to

get on court, and thought, 'I'm

going to win'. I had some very

get into the top 10. It's awfully

hard to stay there. That's what

hit me. In New York that year,

I was No. 3 seed, and people

were trying to beat me. Before,

I had been trying to beat *them*.

I was in a totally different

position, do you see that? And

I couldn't come to terms with

it at all. I was trying not to

lose, trying to defend my

seed and my ranking, whereas

before, I had just been

going for everyone. I couldn't

cope with it, a totally different

mental approach. It took me a

long time to come to terms with this. And it's all a lot harder now than it was then. All the players ranked up to 70 are very good indeed. It's tough."

If you want to irritate Durie, then suggest glibly that she sees a sports psychologist or a "sports psychiatrist", as she rather revealingly terms that profession, clearly believing that such people are only for loonies. "I don't believe in myself enough, but I'm getting there," she said. "Self belief has always been a weakness of mine when it comes to the crunch. It is something that I want to enjoy it now, win or lose... come what may..."

Durie is often criticized for what is seen as a lack of courage. Me, I think there is an enormous amount of courage in Jo Durie, quite a colossal amount. Tennis is, more than anything else, a game of psychological domination, and she knows that she has yielded the psychological advantage again and again. But she keeps playing.

She has been rattled, shaken and humiliated over and over again, but there is something wonderfully indomitable about her. "I've got no plans for retirement," she said. "Obviously, I'll have to stop sometime, but not now, while I'm still *passionate* about it. I want to enjoy it now, win or lose... come what may..."

HOCKEY

England and Ireland fly out

By Sydney Franks

The England and Ireland teams left Manchester yesterday in the same aircraft bound for Lahore, the venue for the seventh World Cup, where they will confront each other in the National Stadium on Monday.

For sides seeking success in a difficult group, the situation is important, more so for Richard Leman, the England captain, and Mark Burns, an experienced midfield campaigner for Ireland. Both will be making their hundredth outdoor appearance for their respective countries, and even with a week to celebrate the occasion with a victory.

In the run-up to the World Cup, England and Ireland have understandably avoided playing each other, their last meeting going as far back as 1987, in Dublin, where England won 2-1.

Bernie Cotton, the England manager, struck a note of hope for England before departure. "I am happier now that the loose ends have been tied up," he said.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

OTHER SPORT

SHOOTING: Britain and Hong Kong (Wembley); Germany v France (Paris).

NETBALL

Scotland's best are outplayed

By Louise Taylor

The England teams were always going to win their home internationals at both senior and under-21 level against Scotland at Kelvin Hall. The only thing in doubt was the margin of victory.

In the event it turned out to be 69-28 for the seniors and 65-31 for the juniors. When it is considered that Scotland had

come from 10-18 down to 20-28 in

three quarters of the game, the

margin of victory was impressive.

Scotland no doubt benefited

from the fact that Jean Bryan, scorer of 60 goals in Middlesbrough, was rested. In her absence, Karen Fenlon claimed 18 goals from 25 attempts.

Trudy Papalia 23 from 26, and Sheila Edwards, 23 from 30.

NETBALL: Birmingham 12.15-2.15pm.

INTERNATIONAL MOTOR: Europe 11am-midday. Motor sport news from around the world.

NETBALL COMPETITION: Bob Lord Trophy Second round Boston v Fisher.

VAUGHN LEAGUE: AC Delco Cup.

Fourth round Utting v Avery (7.45).

COKE DYNASTY: Polytechnic v Birmingham.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Bedwase Cup.

Second round Glenavon v Ballymena.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division.

Fourth round Wrexham v Denby (7.45).

NOTH WEST: Manchester 7.45pm.

NETBALL: Birmingham 12.15-2.15pm.

NETBALL: Birmingham 12.15-2.

Desert Orchid has fine opportunity to land Ascot feature

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Having been denied a glorious chance to register his thirtieth career victory at Sandown last Saturday, Desert Orchid now has almost as good a prospect of reaching that landmark at Ascot today in the Charterhouse Mercantile Chase.

I say almost because at Sandown he would have had to give only 21lb away all round, but he must now concede two stone to all but Rush De Farge.

However, that should not be beyond him on a course where he has won eight times already. The handicapper would require more of him if the others raced off their official ratings rather than having to carry the minimum weight of 10 stone.

While conceding that several good prizes have been won this season by horses out of the handicap proper, I believe Desert Orchid has sufficient class and enthusiasm with which to counter the challenge.

His only defeat this season was by Long Engagement over two miles at Sandown but it has become abundantly clear that the minimum trip is now much too short for him. Stay-ing is his forte.

Balding stays at Fyfield

Toby Bolding confirmed yesterday that he will not be moving to Wharcombe Manor Stables in Dorset (George Rae writes).

Balding and British Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding (BTRB) have been in lengthy negotiations with Peter Bolton, the owner of Wharcombe Manor, but talks were broken off after a failure to agree terms. BTRB own Balding's Fyfield stables and have the trainer under contract.

One factor was the approach



Richard Dunwoody: good prospects of an Ascot double

If it were not, he would never have won last season's Tote Gold Cup at Cheltenham let alone the Whitbread Gold Cup over even further at Sandown the season before.

If Desert Orchid is beaten today it will not, in my opinion, be by either of Josh Gifford's pair, Ballyhane or Paddybroy, nor by Ten Of Spades. I believe the greatest danger is from Man O'Magic, who has been trained with such skill by Kim Bailey to win eight of his last 11 races.

Richard Dunwoody can put himself in the right frame of mind for his enviable ride on

Desert Orchid by winning the Daniel Homes Novices' Chase on Another Coral who, having won twice at Cheltenham, then lost no caste in defeat at Kempton when beaten by the useful Decided.

Man Of The West attempts to win the A F Budge Novices' Hurdle, sponsored by his owner, but I feel he will be thwarted by Atsal, who did well for a comparative beginner to win the Lanarkshire Handicap Hurdle at Kempton last time.

If Peter Scudamore fails to win the Daily Telegraph Hurdle on Mrs Mack he will have to answer to his wife, Marilyn, who has been so instrumental in the making of the man in their friend and neighbour Nigel Twiston-Davies' yard.

Scudamore later continues his association with Celtic Shot in the Old Road Security Reynoldsdown Novices' Chase in an attempt to clarify plans for Cheltenham. But in my view he will do well to outstay Carrick Hill Lad, who is unbeaten over fences.

For the day's best bet, I have no hesitation in nominating Formula One to win the Totebury Novices' Chase at Ludlow, even though he fell at Chepstow last time out in his first chase. In fact he did not touch a twig of the last fence, he simply knocked over on landing when holding a commanding lead.

Balding and British Thoroug

ghbred Racing and Breeding (BTRB) have been in lengthy negotiations with Peter Bolton, the owner of Wharcombe Manor, but talks were broken off after a failure to agree terms. BTRB own Balding's Fyfield stables and have the trainer under contract.

One factor was the approach

of Cheltenham. With the National Hunt Festival only five weeks away, the pressures of time on Balding to move his operation were too great.

Balding and British Thoroug

ghbred Racing and Breeding (BTRB) have been in lengthy negotiations with Peter Bolton, the owner of Wharcombe Manor, but talks were broken off after a failure to agree terms. BTRB own Balding's Fyfield stables and have the trainer under contract.

One factor was the approach

SOUTHWELL

Selections

By Mandarin

1.40 Birmingham's Fride, 2.10 Hydeonius, 2.40 Peiglow, 3.10 Renshaw Wood, 3.40 Kenilworth Castle, 4.10 Whitewash.

Going: standard

1.14 MONSEIGNEUR SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,515; 2m) (12 runners)

1 2007 LEON 53 (F) W Clay 6-10-0 R Bowen (7) 2 2002 BARLOW NOW 18 H Bradley 10-0-0 G Bradley (7) 3 2000 EVERMINTY SHIF 5 J Thomas 10-0-0 J Thomas (7) 4 2005 PEPSI 20 (F) P Dwyer 6-11-0 M Dwyer (7) 5 2004 KOTUPHAS 15 P L Bostock 10-0-0 J Thomas (7) 6 2003 RAISH 'N LEMON 16 J Parsons 10-0-0 S Parsons (7) 7 2005 SAYLOR'S 16 (F) R Ryans 10-0-0 R Ryans (7) 8 2006 SETTER COUNTRY 20 (F) R Ryans 10-0-0 R Ryans (7) 9 2007 STYLING 16 (F) R Ryans 10-0-0 R Ryans (7) 10 2008 SETTER COUNTRY 20 (F) R Ryans 10-0-0 R Ryans (7) 11 2009 MEANIE MINNA 18 J Parsons 10-0-0 R Ryans (7) 12 2010 PP MIDNIGHT 37 D Caves 10-0-0 P Richards (7)

2.52 Birmingham's Fride, 11-10 Barley More, 4-11 Radich 'N Lemon, 8-12 Christmas Hots, 8-11 Minna, 12-1 others.

2.10 RACING POST ALL WEATHER CHALLENGE HANDICAP HURDLE (Round 1; £1,545; 2m) (5)

1 2012 HILL BEADLE 28 (CD,F,G) W Clay 10-11-0 R Bowen (7) 2 2010 CHEWISWOLD 22 (D,F,G) J Johnson 8-11-0 R Bowen (7) 3 2009 HYDROGENUS 16 (D,F,G) J Johnson 8-11-0 R Bowen (7) 4 2012 REHEARSAL 14 (CD,M,F) J Thomas 7-10-0 S Parsons (7) 5 2008 CAJUN DANCER 16 (V) J Harris 10-0-0 J Harris (7) 6 2007 CAJUN DANCER 16 (V) J Harris 10-0-0 J Harris (7) 7 2006 THE LIGHTER SIDE 6 (D,F,G) P Francis 4-10-0 S Parsons (7) 8 2005 MEANIE MINNA 18 J Parsons 10-0-0 R Ryans (7) 9 2007 PP MIDNIGHT 37 D Caves 10-0-0 P Richards (7)

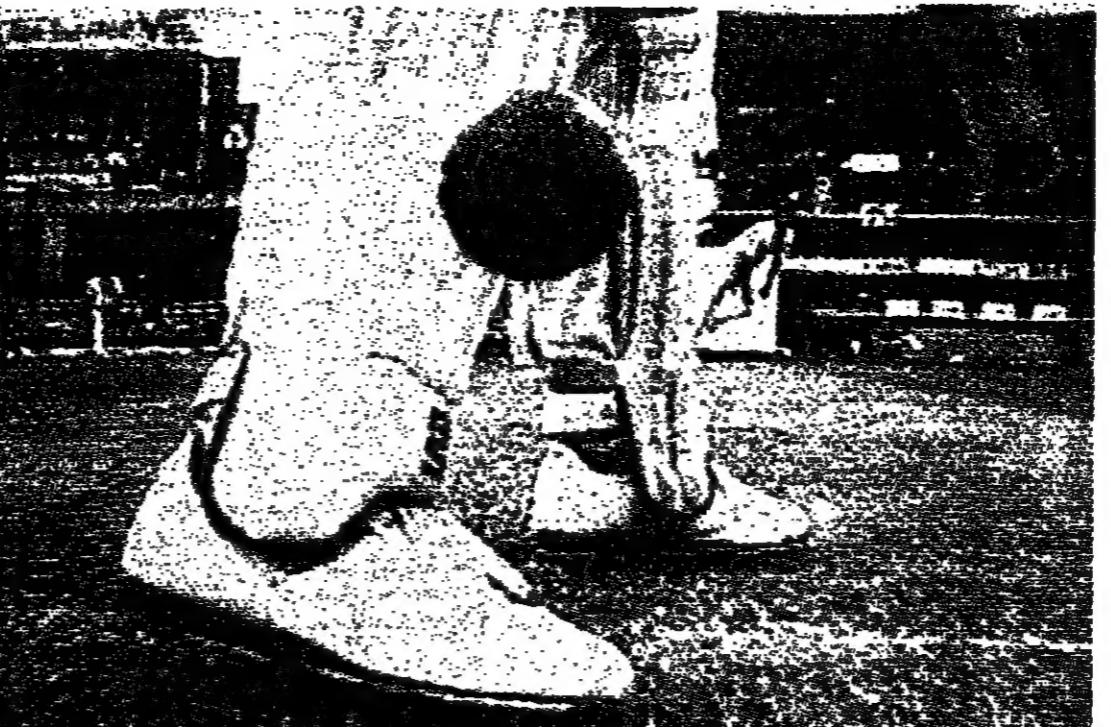
11-14 Hilly People, 7-2 Ransome, 7-2 The Lighter Side, 8-1 Cajun Dancer, 10-1 Hydronius, 20-1 Chevred.

Course specialists

THAMES: 1.40s D 100s, 7 winners from 21 runners, 25.2% D, 100% W, 8 from 32, 25.1%, 8 from 33, 25.2%; 2.40s from 18, 25.7%, 8 from 34, 25.3%; 3.20s from 19, 25.1%, 8 from 35, 25.2%; 4.10s from 20, 25.0%, 8 from 36, 25.0%; 5.10s from 21, 25.0%, 8 from 37, 25.0%; 6.10s from 22, 25.0%, 8 from 38, 25.0%; 7.10s from 23, 25.0%, 8 from 39, 25.0%; 8.10s from 24, 25.0%, 8 from 40, 25.0%; 9.10s from 25, 25.0%, 8 from 41, 25.0%; 10.10s from 26, 25.0%, 8 from 42, 25.0%; 11.10s from 27, 25.0%, 8 from 43, 25.0%; 12.10s from 28, 25.0%, 8 from 44, 25.0%; 13.10s from 29, 25.0%, 8 from 45, 25.0%; 14.10s from 30, 25.0%, 8 from 46, 25.0%; 15.10s from 31, 25.0%, 8 from 47, 25.0%; 16.10s from 32, 25.0%, 8 from 48, 25.0%; 17.10s from 33, 25.0%, 8 from 49, 25.0%; 18.10s from 34, 25.0%, 8 from 50, 25.0%; 19.10s from 35, 25.0%, 8 from 51, 25.0%; 20.10s from 36, 25.0%, 8 from 52, 25.0%; 21.10s from 37, 25.0%, 8 from 53, 25.0%; 22.10s from 38, 25.0%, 8 from 54, 25.0%; 23.10s from 39, 25.0%, 8 from 55, 25.0%; 24.10s from 40, 25.0%, 8 from 56, 25.0%; 25.10s from 41, 25.0%, 8 from 57, 25.0%; 26.10s from 42, 25.0%, 8 from 58, 25.0%; 27.10s from 43, 25.0%, 8 from 59, 25.0%; 28.10s from 44, 25.0%, 8 from 60, 25.0%; 29.10s from 45, 25.0%, 8 from 61, 25.0%; 30.10s from 46, 25.0%, 8 from 62, 25.0%; 31.10s from 47, 25.0%, 8 from 63, 25.0%; 32.10s from 48, 25.0%, 8 from 64, 25.0%; 33.10s from 49, 25.0%, 8 from 65, 25.0%; 34.10s from 50, 25.0%, 8 from 66, 25.0%; 35.10s from 51, 25.0%, 8 from 67, 25.0%; 36.10s from 52, 25.0%, 8 from 68, 25.0%; 37.10s from 53, 25.0%, 8 from 69, 25.0%; 38.10s from 54, 25.0%, 8 from 70, 25.0%; 39.10s from 55, 25.0%, 8 from 71, 25.0%; 40.10s from 56, 25.0%, 8 from 72, 25.0%; 41.10s from 57, 25.0%, 8 from 73, 25.0%; 42.10s from 58, 25.0%, 8 from 74, 25.0%; 43.10s from 59, 25.0%, 8 from 75, 25.0%; 44.10s from 60, 25.0%, 8 from 76, 25.0%; 45.10s from 61, 25.0%, 8 from 77, 25.0%; 46.10s from 62, 25.0%, 8 from 78, 25.0%; 47.10s from 63, 25.0%, 8 from 79, 25.0%; 48.10s from 64, 25.0%, 8 from 80, 25.0%; 49.10s from 65, 25.0%, 8 from 81, 25.0%; 50.10s from 66, 25.0%, 8 from 82, 25.0%; 51.10s from 67, 25.0%, 8 from 83, 25.0%; 52.10s from 68, 25.0%, 8 from 84, 25.0%; 53.10s from 69, 25.0%, 8 from 85, 25.0%; 54.10s from 70, 25.0%, 8 from 86, 25.0%; 55.10s from 71, 25.0%, 8 from 87, 25.0%; 56.10s from 72, 25.0%, 8 from 88, 25.0%; 57.10s from 73, 25.0%, 8 from 89, 25.0%; 58.10s from 74, 25.0%, 8 from 90, 25.0%; 59.10s from 75, 25.0%, 8 from 91, 25.0%; 60.10s from 76, 25.0%, 8 from 92, 25.0%; 61.10s from 77, 25.0%, 8 from 93, 25.0%; 62.10s from 78, 25.0%, 8 from 94, 25.0%; 63.10s from 79, 25.0%, 8 from 95, 25.0%; 64.10s from 80, 25.0%, 8 from 96, 25.0%; 65.10s from 81, 25.0%, 8 from 97, 25.0%; 66.10s from 82, 25.0%, 8 from 98, 25.0%; 67.10s from 83, 25.0%, 8 from 99, 25.0%; 68.10s from 84, 25.0%, 8 from 100, 25.0%; 69.10s from 85, 25.0%, 8 from 101, 25.0%; 70.10s from 86, 25.0%, 8 from 102, 25.0%; 71.10s from 87, 25.0%, 8 from 103, 25.0%; 72.10s from 88, 25.0%, 8 from 104, 25.0%; 73.10s from 89, 25.0%, 8 from 105, 25.0%; 74.10s from 90, 25.0%, 8 from 106, 25.0%; 75.10s from 91, 25.0%, 8 from 107, 25.0%; 76.10s from 92, 25.0%, 8 from 108, 25.0%; 77.10s from 93, 25.0%, 8 from 109, 25.0%; 78.10s from 94, 25.0%, 8 from 110, 25.0%; 79.10s from 95, 25.0%, 8 from 111, 25.0%; 80.10s from 96, 25.0%, 8 from 112, 25.0%; 81.10s from 97, 25.0%, 8 from 113, 25.0%; 82.10s from 98, 25.0%, 8 from 114, 25.0%; 83.10s from 99, 25.0%, 8 from 115, 25.0%; 84.10s from 100, 25.0%, 8 from 116, 25.0%; 85.10s from 101, 25.0%, 8 from 117, 25.0%; 86.10s from 102, 25.0%, 8 from 118, 25.0%; 87.10s from 103, 25.0%, 8 from 119, 25.0%; 88.10s from 104, 25.0%, 8 from 120, 25.0%; 89.10s from 105, 25.0%, 8 from 121, 25.0%; 90.10s from 106, 25.0%, 8 from 122, 25.0%; 91.10s from 107, 25.0%, 8 from 123, 25.0%; 92.10s from 108, 25.0%, 8 from 124, 25.0%; 93.10s from 109, 25.0%, 8 from 125, 25.0%; 94.10s from 110, 25.0%, 8 from 126, 25.0%; 95.10s from 111, 25.0%, 8 from 127, 25.0%; 96.10s from 112, 25.0%, 8 from 128, 25.0%; 97.10s from 113, 25.0%, 8 from 129, 25.0%; 98.10s from 114, 25.0%, 8 from 130, 25.0%; 99.10s from 115, 25.0%, 8 from 131, 25.0%; 100.10s from 116, 25.0%, 8 from 132, 25.0%; 101.10s from 117, 25.0%, 8 from 133, 25.0%; 102.10s from 118, 25.0%, 8 from 134, 25.0%; 103.10s from 119, 25.0%, 8 from 135, 25.0%; 104.10s from 120, 25.0%, 8 from 136, 25.0%; 105.10s from 121, 25.0%, 8 from 137, 25.0%; 106.10s from 122, 25.0%, 8 from 138, 25.0%; 107.10s from 123, 25.0%, 8 from 139, 25.0%; 108.10s from 124, 25.0%, 8 from 140, 25.0%; 109.10s from 125, 25.0%, 8 from 141, 25.0%; 110.10s from 126, 25.0%, 8 from 142, 25.0%; 111.10s from 127, 25.0%, 8 from 143, 25.0%; 112.10s from 128, 25.0%, 8 from 144, 25.0%; 113.10s from 129, 25.0%, 8 from 145, 25.0%; 114.10s from 130, 25.0%, 8 from 146, 25.0%; 115.10s from 131, 25.0%, 8 from 147, 25.0%; 116.10s from 132, 25.0%, 8 from 148, 25.0%; 117.10s from 133, 25.0%, 8 from 149, 25.0%; 118.10s from 134, 25.0%, 8 from 150, 25.0%; 119.10s from 135, 25.0%, 8 from 151, 25.0%; 120.10s from 136, 25.0%, 8 from 152, 25.0%; 121.10s from 137, 25.0%, 8 from 153, 25.0%; 122.10s from 138, 25.0%, 8 from 154, 25.0%; 123.10s from 139, 25.0%, 8 from 155, 25.0%; 124.10s from 140, 25.0%, 8 from 156, 25.0%; 125.10s from 141, 25.0%, 8 from 157, 25.0%; 126.10s from 142, 25.0%, 8 from 158, 25.0%; 127.10s from 143, 25.0%, 8 from 159, 25.0%; 128.10s from 144, 25.0%, 8 from 160, 25.0%; 129.10s from 145, 25.0%, 8 from 161, 25.0%; 130.10s from 146, 25.0%, 8 from 162, 25.0%; 131.10s from 147, 25.0%, 8 from 163, 25.0%; 132.10s from 148, 25.0%, 8 from 164, 25.0%; 133.10s from 149, 25.0%, 8 from 165, 25.0%; 134.10s from 150, 25.0%, 8 from 166, 25.0%; 135.10s from 151, 25.0%, 8 from 167, 25.0%; 136.10s from 152, 25.0%, 8 from 168, 25.0%; 137.10s from 153, 25.0%, 8 from 169, 25.0%; 138.10s from 154, 25

CRICKET: A MINI-CAMERA EMBEDDED IN THE MIDDLE STUMP IS THE LATEST TECHNICAL INNOVATION IN TV COVERAGE

Helping the viewer follow the ball all the way



After the bird's-eye view and the worm's-eye view — not to mention the microphone in the pitch — we now have the stump's-eye view, thanks to the latest piece of amateur technology to be used by Channel Nine in Australia.

The picture on the left shows Ghazi, the Pakistani No. 11,

bowed by Alderman at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday. The picture above shows the ball just before impact, with the bowler visible in the background, framed by the batsman's front leg and bat.

The key to this new dimension of television coverage is the small dark area on the lower part of the middle stump. It is in fact a miniature

camera, half the size of a cigarette, embedded in the wood.

The camera has already produced dramatic pictures from the Australian Grand Prix motor race and made its cricketing debut in a Sheffield Shield match at Hobart. Viewers will now be able to share the experience of facing the world's elite bowlers.

Campaign stepped up on eve of game

From Richard Streeton
Johannesburg

When on a normal tour the mood would have become anticipatory and buoyant, the unhappy atmosphere surrounding the visit by Mike Gatting and his side has become more sour than ever on the eve of the first unofficial Test match, which starts here tomorrow. In addition to the South African government's expulsion yesterday of two journalists, Paul Weaver of Today and Gareth Furby of Independent Radio News, there were growing reports that anti-apartheid protesters are planning their largest demonstrations so far.

Jesse Jackson, the American civil rights leader, is due to arrive in South Africa today, and the National Sports Congress is hoping to persuade him to join the protests. Two demonstrations are scheduled at the team's hotel today with protest action also arranged for outside the ground during the first two days of the match. On Sunday there will be a march to the Wanderers ground.

A spokesman, Moss Masson, said the protest represented "part of a broad campaign to deserve apartheid. We appeal to President de Klerk to demonstrate his good faith in his attempts at reconciliation by cancelling the tour," he said. There was also a protest yesterday by staff at the hotel where the South African cricketers are staying. The hotel workers were under the mistaken impression that Gatting's side were also staying there.

Meanwhile, the English team had a free day. The South Africans held their first practice together at the Wanderers, where the pitch is expected to be hard and bouncy.

Gatting has hinted that if necessary he would not hesitate to order Embury and play an extra batsman in return for fast bowlers. With Dillies not expected to be fit this would presumably go Foster, Thomas, Jarvis and Ellison. In these circumstances it is possible that Cowdry's all-round skills might gain him preference over Barnett for the extra batting place.

It is hoped to announce the English side after nets today and more could also emerge then about the progress of Dilley's troublesome knee. There are, apparently, no reserves on stand-by in England.

One player the English team will definitely not be calling upon is Clive Rice, the deposed South African captain, who has been quoted as saying that if Wessels, who has played for Australia, can play for South Africa, he does not see why he, Rice, cannot play for the English XI.

Rice holds British citizenship and a United Kingdom passport, having been born in 1945 in county cricket indistinctly makes him eligible. Both David Graveney, the English manager, and the South African Cricket Union have denied that this would be allowed to happen.

Journalists expected, page 10

Small's example is one for England's bowlers to emulate

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Basetsere

Graham Gooch is not given to premature public denunciations, so when he confessed yesterday, that "our bowlers still have a lot of hard work to do", the anxiety within the England camp was easily discernible.

Gooch, the England captain, did his best to paper over the cracks exposed by an alarming final afternoon to the touring team's opening game, in which the Leeward Islands scored at upwards of six runs an over against lamentably ill-directed bowling.

"You have to remember they have not bowled in a serious game for four or five months," Gooch said defiantly. "Of course, it is going to be tough on them early on. But perhaps he was closer to the worrying realities of England's inexperienced attack when he added: "I am sure some of them would like to have bowled better."

With the honourable exception of Small, whom Gooch rated "the pick of the bowlers on both sides", there was little

Tasmania suffer in Cyclone Craig

Overseas cricket by Simon Wilde

Cyclone Nancy, which put paid to the first two days of the Sydney Test match, brought even greater havoc in its wake for Tasmania's batsmen in Brisbane, where the team had been due to play the third Test from March 10 to 13, has yet to witness a ball bowled in the Red Stripe Cup, the Caribbean's first-class competition.

Goyana's four-day matches against both Trinidad and Barbados at the weekend, and against Jamaica, last month, have been lost.

On Wednesday, Barbados assumed themselves of second place in the cup table with a nine-wicket win over Windward Islands. Gordon Greenidge, who had cut short a contract with a club side in Barbados to return for the Red Stripe Cup, and thus qualify for selection for the Test series against England, scored his second century of the season for Barbados.

In South Africa, Western Province have reason to feel disgruntled that they lost the Currie Cup with Eastern Province, after having had the better of the five-day final, which was drawn. Maguire, the Australian, took his 45th Currie Cup wicket of the season during the final, an Eastern Province record.

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Journalists expected, page 10

SKIING: OLYMPIC CHAMPION CHASING RECORD-EQUALLING FOURTH OVERALL TITLE IN WORLD CUP

The Royal inspiration

By a Special Correspondent

Inspired by the news that their patron, the Duchess of York, is to attend the final day of the Portakabin British Services International Alpine Championships in Megève, France, the Army women's team duly won the carriage special slalom.

The final two training runs of the men's downhill showed that the defending champions, the Italian Alpine, will have to sit at their best if they are to retain their team title in tomorrow's race.

Although the temperature rose to 5°C with clear blue skies, the snow conditions were perfect for both the slalom and the downhill training.

Tanya McQuoid, of the Army, won the individual carriage special slalom event, by being the fastest servicewoman over both courses, held on the Radnor piste. However, Helen Keegan, of the British Ski High School,

who are skating as guests in the competition, recorded the quietest time in the second run.

Osta Walter, an Italian Alpine, recorded the best downhill running time of 1:37.71 on the 2,000-metre De L'Estre run.

Craig Bonington, of the Royal Air Force, produced the fastest descent from the British military skiers, in 1:45.62. Once again, the national handball skiers are attending the meeting, and four of the racers, led by Mike Hammond, participated in the downhill training runs. From here, they move on to the world championships in Colorado later this month.

RESULTS: Carriage women's special slalom: 1, H Keegan (Ski High School), 43.24sec; 44.56sec, combined 1min 20.3sec; 2, T McQuoid, 43.29sec; 3, Dovidenko (RAF), 45.20, 48.40, 1:31.62. Team: 1, Army Women's Services, 3 Royal Navy Ladies.

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Zurbriggen extends lead over rival

Courmayeur (Reuters) — Firmin Zurbriggen, the Swiss all-rounders, stretched his overall World Cup lead with his first victory of 1990 in the super-giant slalom yesterday.

Zurbriggen, who clocked faster times than Zurbriggen in the last two super-giants in the French resorts of Val d'Isère and Les Menuires, slid into the first gate and also lost speed in the final part of the run.

Zurbriggen said he made a bad mistake in the steep upper part of the track, where many skiers lost time. "I went too wide at a bump and I could not see the next gate," he said. "I lost a good opportunity."

Zurbriggen, a winner in the discipline in Sestriere, Italy, in December, also took over the lead in the super-giant standings 73 points. He displaced Lars-Bengt Eriksson of Sweden, who finished fourteenth in Courmayeur and was pushed down to third place on 56 points behind Mitterer on 61.

It was his third success this season and the first since the opening downhill of the season at Val Gardena, Italy, in December. With Ole Christian Furuholm of Norway, his nearest rival for the overall crown, finishing sixteenth after making several mistakes, the Swiss stretched his lead to 83 points and now has 295.

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Kurt Ladstätter was fifth and the veteran, Dario

CYLING

Cammish tied to Raleigh for two years

By Michael Stevenson

Pocklington, 19

St George's, 10

Si George's College, from Buenos Aires, had lost five matches and won one during their British tour, and it was to their credit that they came so close to upsetting Pocklington in a scrappy, shapeless encounter yesterday. Pocklington won with two goals, a try and a penalty, to a try and two penalties.

The stronger and heavier Pocklington pack would have dominated but for the courage and spirit of the St George's tackling. None did better in this department than Morley, in the departmental agent will be attacking unopposed to place road records. He is looking for fresh challenges.

At 5ft 3in and over 135lb, Clarke, fielding a slack kick, put the speedy Massey away for the best try of the match. But St George's, after a spell of pressure, scored when Lord pounced off a one-man scrum for an unorthodox try. Day had the final try with a penalty.

Scorers: Pocklington: Try: Dan Rees, Matza. Conversions: Dan Rees, Matza. Penalties: Day. St George's: Try: Lord. Conversions: C Bush, G Jordan, N Gibson, C Keane, R Day. Penalties: G Newson (capt), S Garvey, J Jennings, N Anderson, I Lovell, C Glanister, P Parrot, J Lord. St George's: Matza, R Day, R Parrot, M Gibson, S Glanister, P Parrot, J Lord. Si George's: C Bush, G Jordan, N Gibson, C Keane, R Day. Pocklington: Dan Rees, Matza. St George's: Try: Lord. Conversions: C Bush, G Jordan, N Gibson, C Keane, R Day. Penalties: G Newson (capt), S Garvey, J Jennings, N Anderson, I Lovell, C Glanister, P Parrot, J Lord. St George's: Matza, R Day, R Parrot, M Gibson, S Glanister, P Parrot, J Lord. Pocklington: Dan Rees, Matza. St George's: Try: Lord. Conversions: C Bush, G Jordan, N Gibson, C Keane, R Day. Penalties: G Newson (capt), S Garvey, J Jennings, N Anderson, I Lovell, C Glanister, P Parrot, J Lord. St George's: Matza, R Day, R Parrot, M Gibson, S Glanister, P Parrot, J Lord. 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END COLUMN

Holland will battle to cleanse his sport



Man in the hot seat: Wally Holland, the leader of a sport in crisis

By John Goodbody

Wally Holland, the honorary secretary of the British Amateur Weightlifters Association (BAWLA), accepts that he might be forced to resign because of the drugs controversy surrounding the sport, but says he wants to remain in office to help conquer the menace.

Holland, whose sport is facing at least five inquiries following the scandal over Steve Vincent, the 1982 Commonwealth champion, who was jailed in November for supplying anabolic steroids, and the lack of positive tests before and during the Games in New Zealand, is willing to accept some of the responsibility.

He said: "I will not shrink that responsibility. At the end of the day if someone is guilty I may have to be the one, although I had nothing to do with it."

"Just as Mrs Thatcher, as head of the Government has to accept some of the responsibility even if the actual blame lies miles down the line, so it is with me."

In the only interview he will give until the results of the inquiries are known, Holland told *The Times* that he was prepared to sacrifice himself but did not want to go while the drugs problem remained. "I would rather face my

Sofia (Reuter) — Borislav Gidikov, the former world middleweight weightlifting champion, has been banned by Bulgarian sports authorities for 18 months after failing a drugs test, a Bulgarian newspaper said on Tuesday. The youth daily, *Narodna Mysl*, said Gidikov was tested at a training session and found to have taken anabolic steroids. He won his title in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia, in 1987.

responsibilities instead of leaving them to some other poor devil to deal with," he said.

Holland, who was the England team manager at the Games, said he was "totally surprised" by the positive tests on three British lifters over the last three months. They involved Dean Willey, the defending Commonwealth middleweight champion, and the two Welshmen in Auckland, Ricky Chaplin and Gareth Hives.

He points out that there only three lifters who failed tests in the years between 1983 and 1989.

However, power lifting, which is also controlled by the BAWLA, has had a great number of "positives" in recent years, including seven since last April.

There is a growing belief that anabolic steroids may have

contributed to the death of Tom Hawk, the British under-23 record-holder, who collapsed in a strongman competition in Scotland last July. When police searched his hotel room, they found hormone drugs.

"What these people do not realize is the publicity and shame of being caught and what happens to their jobs and family," Holland said.

From his tiny office in Oxford, in which there is not enough room to lift a barbell, Holland, an amateur official, has repeatedly warned his 17,500 members of the dangers of taking drugs.

In his 36 years as secretary of the BAWLA, the last three months have been the most "traumatic" for Holland, who is also president of the European Federation. The world governing body will consider in March whether Britain should be barred from all events for a year after the two positive tests in New Zealand.

The wording of a new regulation, with the possibility of a \$2,000 fine, is so ambiguous that it is unclear whether the International Federation is obliged to act.

The position of weightlifting in multi-sports events like the Olympic Games is under threat. Five out of the 10 competitors who were

found positive in Seoul came from the sport.

Holland said: "Many sports are decrying weightlifting even though not many sports can be sure they are free of drugs. There has been the suggestion to use the yardstick of drugs to remove weightlifting from the Games. If this is society's attitude then every sport with a drug problem should be removed."

After all, there have been more than 120 cases of drug irregularities in athletics since 1975, but no one has suggested removing this sport from the next Olympic or Commonwealth Games.

Even before the "positives" in Auckland, the BAWLA, the only national governing body which automatically banned someone for life after a positive test for hormone drugs, had agreed with the Sports Council a programme of out-of-competition testing with sampling officers liable to arrive unannounced at a competitor's home or gymnasium.

Holland is optimistic that this will help eliminate drug-taking from a sport which is such a splendidly basic test of physical ability.

He said: "It is our duty as sports lovers and administrators to protect the future generations from the dangers of drug-taking."

Keeping a sport in pole position

By John Blunsden

Jean-Marie Balestre, the autocratic president of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and its sporting arm, the Federation Internationale du Sport Automobile (FISA), may be the most controversial administrator in the long history of motor sport, but even his most bitter critics concede that no one has had a greater influence over the conduct and management of the sport.

The man who has recently been embroiled with McLaren, Ayrton Senna and the organizers of the Le Mans 24-hour race, has been part of the motor sport scene for many years. After a background in journalism, Balestre moved into administration in the 1950s, initially concerned with karting, but later becoming Secretary-General then President of the French motor sport federation, which had wrested control of the sport in France from its traditional power base, the Automobile Club de France (ACF).

He emerged as a highly skilled politician with a seemingly inexhaustible energy, ideal credentials for a man with his eye already on the presidency of the Commission Sportive Internationale (CSI), the FIA's sporting division. During his election campaign he canvassed vigorously in a platform of restoring the administrative powers of the sport to its rightful place, and a sweeping victory.

For many years the CSI administration had been in the

reform heat, with fierce opposition from reformists and traditionalists alike, leading to a deadlocked crisis Committee meeting.

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